

THE JOURNAL

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Martin Snapp Shadi Christmas sculptures need a new home [A5]

Arts Theater Expand your holiday horizons with these stage offerings [C3]

Kensington has a shift in its Outlook

The longtime editors of the community publication have stepped down

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER
KENSINGTON — God is in heaven and the recreation schedule is in the Outlook. There is something comfortable and old-fashioned about the Kensington Outlook. The 37-year-old community publication hasn't changed much through the years. Come heck or high water, you know you'll be able to find the dog obedience training schedule, tot lot and PTA

news, what happened at the last Kensington Improvement Club meeting and all the other local stuff within the eight pages of the Outlook.

But the venerable community tabloid-format newspaper, published 10 times a year by the Kensington Community Council and distributed free to every Kensington household, has been going through some changes lately. Editor Diane Gossard and assistant editor Anna-Maria Hertzler have left the paper after nearly 24 years and 19 years respectively. The new editor, Linda Lettieri, will work out of her Kensington home; the assistant position has been eliminated and

the Outlook will no longer have an office on Arlington Boulevard.

Neither Gossard, 61, nor Hertzler, 56, were interested in publishing the Outlook from home and both said they felt it was time to move on. Gossard plans to travel with her husband, who is recently retired, and Hertzler is now editing the in-house newsletter for a local restaurant chain.

The two have received accolades from the community and parting gifts from the KCC. In October, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District honored Gossard with a resolution honoring her "as an unbiased and professional

reporter and editor."

Ted Blanckenburg, president of the KCC, said Gossard was a dedicated worker for the Outlook and covered an enormous number of community meetings.

"She just gave great coverage and great service," Blanckenburg said.

Gossard and Hertzler said there were some interesting times during their tenure on the Outlook. "It was just wonderful working right in the community and getting to know so many people through the job," said Hertzler, a New Zealand native and Kensington resident for more than 25 years. "A lot of people in Kensington keep each issue so

that they can refer back to it. They've told us they're all but waiting at the gate for the next issue to appear."

And it's no wonder. "We focus tightly on Kensington," Hertzler said. "The Outlook has stuff that's happening in Kensington and by Kensington residents or what Kensington residents are doing elsewhere."

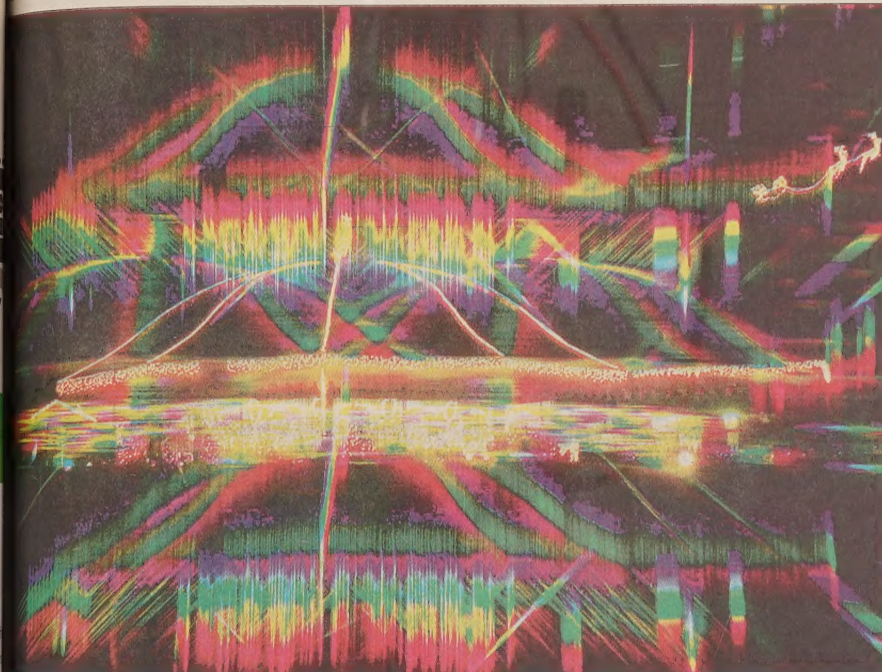
Gossard said that during her time with the Outlook, she increased local news coverage and added the police reports. In her 24 years as editor she never missed getting an issue out, although after the Loma Prieta

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CLYF TAYLOR/KENSINGTON OUTLOOK
KENSINGTON OUTLOOK
editors Anna-Maria Hertzler and Diane Gossard were honored for their years of service.

CAROUSEL SPARKLES IN THE NIGHT SKY



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

Wilden Park offers 'Christmas Fantasy'

CHRISTMAS FANTASY at Wilden Park in Berkeley lights the night sky even without the aid of seeing it through telescope glasses (above). Every Bailey of Walnut Creek, Calif., rides the merry-go-round with his son, Sean, during Christmas Fantasy at Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley on Nov. 8. The ride will be open Monday through Friday from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Nov. 23-24 from 11 a.m. through Dec. 23. Food and drink are on sale, as are decorations and gift items. Tickets on the merry-go-round, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, are \$11 or \$10 for a ticket book of 10. The merry-go-round, on Central Park Drive, was constructed in North Tarrytown, N.Y., in 1910, and has been at Tilden since 1948. For information, call 510-524-1973.



El Cerrito planners reject Hampton Inn and a subdivision

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The Planning Commission voted down two proposed projects, one commercial and one residential, at its Dec. 5 meeting.

On a split vote the commission denied a use permit for a proposal to build a four-story, 72-room, Hampton Inn Suites motel at 11645 San Pablo Ave. in the Del Norte area of the city.

Nick Patel, owner of the Free-way Motel that currently occupies the site, was also asking for an exception to the city's height limits in order to build his new motel up to 45 feet tall.

In another action the commission voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council deny approval for a five-parcel housing project, called Dylan's Way Subdivision, planned off Arlington Boulevard north of Lambrecht Court.

As proposed, the subdivision includes four new homes to be built west of an existing home and a new access cul-de-sac.

According to the city planning staff, applicant Aaron Vitale plans to redesign the proposal.

Concerning the motel project, the commissioners had questions about such concerns as the size

of the project, its impact in the area and the precedent its approval would set for area development.

Patel said after the meeting that he is not sure if he will appeal the commission's decision to the Council, but the architect Arvind Iyer of Iyer & Associates of San Francisco, said this week that an appeal will be made.

Commissioner Matthew Gaber said the proposed building would have a "substantial visual impact" and that the site project should be considered within the Del Norte BART area specific plan that is to be developed. "It seems to me that we've engaged, somewhat, in a schizophrenic approach to development in that area," he said.

Commissioner Anne Delehunt said she was glad to see interest in the Del Norte area, but questioned whether the project qualifies for a special city "incentives program" that would allow the taller height and other exceptions.

However, Chairwoman Sandra Potter, although she had concerns about parking, said the new motel would be a good fit for the area.

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Cerrito Creek offer set to come before council

STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — At its Monday night meeting, Dec. 17, the City Council will consider whether to accept a dedication of land on both sides of Cerrito Creek between Talbot and Kains avenues on the south side of the El Cerrito Plaza.

The land is being offered to the city by Plaza co-owner Regency Centers Inc.

The council will also consider accepting a contract for \$350,000 in grant funds from the Coastal Conservancy to be used for stabilization of the creek.

Creek advocates ultimately hope to restore the creek to a more natural state, with native vegetation along its banks and a more natural course to its flow, providing an open space buffer at the shopping center.

Their vision, which has had City Council support in the past, is to include the creek in a pathway linking the Ohlone Greenway to the Bay Trail.

The council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Garden Room at the Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane.

Study could mean a ferry tale beginning on Gilman Street

By Matt Petersen
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The City Council has agreed to formulate a list of concerns for an environmental impact study that could bring transbay ferry service to a new Berkeley/Albany port in the near future.

Although no plans are in place, the Bay Area Water Transit Authority is in the process of polling various Bay Area cities in consideration for terminal locations. The Berkeley/Albany location (possibly at the foot of Gilman Street, on a portion of Golden Gate Fields) is being con-

sidered in two of the four alternatives covered in the environmental review. One of the four alternatives calls for not expanding the current service at all.

"(The list will) address areas that you think are potential impact areas; it brings answers to your questions," said Albany

community development director Ann Chaney in front of the Council on Monday.

A few of the council's environmental concerns were: what kind of impact a new ferry service would have on the wildlife in the mudflats (north of the Bulb), how it will affect fish life

in the area, what a stronger wake from boats will do to Albany Beach, and what effect the abundance of exhaust will have on air quality.

Another concern was traffic and parking on streets near the

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

ECHS concert

The El Cerrito High School concert choir, a cappella/show choir and orchestra will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17. On Tuesday the high school's jazz band and jazz ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door and all proceeds benefit these performing groups. Both performances are at the Little Theater at the school, 540 Ashbury Ave. Tickets are \$5 general, \$2 for students.

AHS concert

Albany High School's annual AHS Instrumental Music Program Winter Concert is at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18 in the AHS Little Theater, featuring the school's Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Rhythm Band (our Rhythm and Blues band).

Puppet 'Nutcracker'

In celebration of the holidays, the Friends of the Albany Library will present "The Nutcracker," a puppet show by Randal Metz and the Puppet Company at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 19 in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. Based on the tale by E.T.A. Hoffman and the music of Tchaikovsky, the "Nutcracker" is a tale of young Clara, who rescues her toy nutcracker from the evil Mouse King and turns him into a prince. There will be priority seating for children. For more information, call the Children's Desk: 526-3720.

Decorate a dove

Drop in between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and decorate a cookie dove at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. The finished doves will be donated to Foot not Bombs. This event is free and open to all ages. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Julie Winkelman at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Portola concert

Portola Middle School, 1012 Navellier

St. El Cerrito, is holding a choir/orchestra concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, in the Portola Little Theatre.

Toddler Time

The Friends of the Albany Library present a new Thursday morning series: Toddler Time, for ages 16 to 36 months. The stories and stretches for little ones take place at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 20, and 27. Sign up at the children's desk, or call 510-526-3720.

LWV potluck

The Richmond chapter LWV annual holiday potluck dinner will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the home of John and Joan Bartulovich, 7102 Donal Ave., El Cerrito. 510-232-1136. The house will be well lit. Do not park in Janie Court, or near the blue curb at the school. Members are encouraged to bring guests. Please let Joan know what you might bring: 510-232-1136.

Folk dancing

Berkeley Folk Dancers invite you to "Live Music and Dance at Live Oak Park" from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14 at 1300 Shattuck at Berryman in Berkeley. David Strong-fiddle and Charlie Hancock-accordion, will play international dance music while you dance. No experience needed. All ages welcome. Donations: Members - \$5, non-members \$7. For information: 510-527-6488 or email: frey1210@aol.com

Holiday go-round

The merry-go-round at Tilden Regional Park, decked out with lights and seasonal decorations, is open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. daily through Dec. 23 for its annual Christmas Fantasy. Food and drink are on sale, as are decorations and gift items. Rides on the merry-go-round are \$1, or \$10 for a ticket book of 13. The merry-go-round, on Central Park Drive has been at Tilden since 1948. For information,

call 510-524-6773.

Thrift store spree

The Berkeley Clinic Auxiliary is holding its annual Christmas shopping spree at the Turnabout Thrift Shop, 10052 San Pablo Ave. in El Cerrito, through today. The spree features a special selection of items, including jewelry, linens, china, antiques, glassware and clothing selected throughout the year from the regular merchandise, all of which is donated. The shop is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dance performance

The Berkeley High School African American Studies Department presents "Reflections" an African dance production at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20, at the Community Theater at BHS. Reserved seating is \$10, general admission \$7, students \$5, children under 13 are \$3. There will be special guest performances by Ballet Folklórico, the El Cerrito High School Dance Group and Polynesian dancers.

Holidays on Telegraph

Telegraph Avenue will be decked out for the season during the 18th Annual Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair during the next two weekends, Dec. 15 and 16, and Dec. 21 through 24, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Music, food, and crafts will be featured on the strip between Bancroft and Dwight ways. More than 300 street artists, merchants and community groups will fill four blocks of the avenue.

Open mic poets event

Rhythm & Muse presents an open mic, featuring poets Lara Dale and Mary-Marcia Casoly on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., between Eunice and Ross streets. Sign-up is at 6:30 p.m., readings start at 7. For more details, call 510-527-9753 or 510-352-6643. Admission is free. All writers and performers are welcome.

POLICE REPORTS

Woman interrupts auto burglary

By K. Osborn
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the morning of Dec. 4 a resident on the 1500 block of Sonoma Avenue reported that during the night thieves had stolen her red '89 Nissan Sentra. There were no witnesses.

■ At about noon on Dec. 4 a Berkeley resident reported that she had observed a subject enter her beige '94 Honda Accord while it was parked near Solano and Ventura avenues. She described the intruder as a black male, 16-20 years old, about six feet tall, with short black cropped hair, with headphones and wearing a gray jacket and blue pants. When she confronted the subject he departed south on Ventura Avenue and was gone when officers arrived.

■ On the afternoon of Dec. 4 officers responded to Albany Middle School on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue on reports of a fight between two boys. Officers took the report.

■ On the evening of Dec. 4 an Albany youth reported that his bike had been stolen while it was parked on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Dec. 5 officers took reports on two vehicles at 555 Pierce Street that had been broken into. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Dec. 5 officers located a blue '82 Datsun pickup reported as stolen

from Richmond in January. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.

■ At about 3 p.m. on Dec. 5 a University Village resident reported that a subject, described as a black male wearing camouflage coat and jeans, had been bothering her 11-year-old son while he was walking home from school. He was last seen walking south on San Pablo Avenue and was gone when officers arrived. About an hour later officers responded to a sandwich shop on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a man matching the above description. He was found to be a transient man who has had numerous contacts with police, mostly involving intoxication. He was warned of his behavior and allowed to depart. Later that day an employee at the AM/PM on the 1000 San Pablo Avenue reported that the same man was asking customers for money and causing trouble and refusing to leave. He was contacted again, warned regarding his behavior and allowed to depart.

■ At about 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 officers responded to a CHP call regarding a hit and run accident involving a DUI driver. The victim and a witness had followed the driver to the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue and chased the driver when he fled on foot. The 34-year-old Richmond man was arrested for hit and run and DUI, cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ Just after midnight on Dec. 6 officers responded to a call from the block of Brighton Avenue on reports of an attempted burglary. Officers searched for a subject described as a black male, 40-year-old, 5'10", 150 lbs., found to have a BART warrant in his name. He was arrested and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 6 officers responded to a call from the block of Key Route 94 on reports from a woman that her boyfriend was assaulting her. The officers arrived and the woman called saying that the boyfriend was continuing to assault her for battery and domestic violence. She was cited with a notice to appear.

■ On the morning of Dec. 6 Santa Fe Avenue residents during the night the thieves broke into items. Thieves also stole '91 Plymouth also.

See ALBANY, page 1

Glass window shattered at plastics store

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — At 11 a.m. Dec. 9 police were called to an apartment in the 1300 block of Liberty Street by a woman requesting assistance. The woman had apparently received minor injuries from her spouse, according to the police report. The suspect, a 51-year-old El Cerrito man, was arrested for corporal injury to spouse and taken to county jail in Martinez.

■ At 1 a.m. Dec. 6 police responded to a report that someone was breaking into a vehicle parked near the intersection of Central and Lexington avenues. When police arrived at the scene they caught a man exiting the vehicle. The suspect, a 35-year-old El Cerrito man, was arrested for burglary and taken to jail.

■ At 12:47 a.m. Dec. 2, on Cutting Boulevard near I-80, a 21-year-old Pittsburgh man made an illegal U-turn in his GMC pickup truck and was stopped by police. The man was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol and arrested.

■ At 2:23 a.m. Dec. 2 police noticed that a man driving a 1998 Toyota pickup truck drove over the concrete median at San Pablo and Central avenues. The man, a 28-year-old Oakland resident, was arrested after it was determined he was driving under the influence of alcohol.

■ At 7:37 p.m. Nov. 28 two people got into an argument at the Target store in the 11400 block of San Pablo Avenue. The argument escalated and the suspect, 50-year-old Richmond man, reportedly hit the victim in the mouth with his fist.

■ At 8:55 p.m. Nov. 28 a 30-year-old El Cerrito man reported that he was the victim of fraud. Apparently a woman claiming to be from the credit bureau had called the man earlier in the

month and obtained his credit information and credit card numbers. The suspect, an Emeryville woman, then used the man's Visa card number to charge more than \$2,250 to his account.

■ At 11 a.m. Nov. 27 a woman telephoned the Longs Drug store in the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue and falsely represented herself as authorized to prescribe a refill of her medication. The police report lists two women as suspects, a 19-year-old and a 38-year-old Berkeley resident.

■ On the morning of Nov. 27 a 69-year-old Sea View Drive woman reported that someone has been making annoying "hang-up" calls to her home over the past eight months. There were no suspects listed in the police report.

■ Just after 3 p.m. Nov. 26 a woman called police to report she had found a pile of trash discarded in the Hillside Natural Area near Fairview Drive and Tamalpais Court. The woman searched through the trash and found a Snowdon Avenue address in the trash.

■ At 12:13 a.m. Nov. 25 a 29-year-old Richmond man was arrested outside the Forum Club in the 11200 block of San Pablo Avenue. The man was determined to be drunk with an unsteady gait and slurred speech and he was unable to answer questions from the police.

■ Just after 10 a.m. Nov. 25, at the Denny's restaurant in the 11300 block of San Pablo Avenue, two women ordered a meal, ate it, and then left with-

out paying.

■ At 1:05 in the Nov. 25 two boys aged 11 and 12 were walking on the sidewalk in the 1100 Kearney Street. One of the boys stopped the woman, grabbed her purse and the woman fought back. The second suspect was arrested. The suspect scene with the woman was arrested.

■ In the afternoon of Nov. 27 a would-be burglar tried to break into a house in the 1100 Cutting Boulevard. He tried to pry open a glass door, but was unsuccessful. They then apparently tried to open a window, but a lock prevented entry. The pair the door and window estimated at \$100.

■ Sometime between 6 p.m. and Nov. 26 someone threw a pile of trash down the side of the 11000 block of San Pablo Avenue. There were no witnesses. Damage was estimated at \$100.

Chamber election ballots due today

SEWALL GLINTERNICK
El Cerrito Chamber

Ballots covering the election of nine members of the El Cerrito Chamber board of directors, which were mailed to all members in good standing, must be returned to the organization's office at 10848 San Pablo Ave. by close of business today.

Seven incumbents are seeking re-election along with three newcomers.

The incumbent candidates include: Bea Doherty-Vincent of Doherty's Truck and Auto Rental; Sil Addiego, Coldwell; Banker-Bartels Realty; Larry Seidell, Seidell Enterprises; Michael Klinger, Sunset View Cemetery Association; Charlie Weaver, CPA; Marge Collins, Collins Property Management; and Rena Bruton, Bank of the West.

Among those seeking a post on the Board of Directors for the first time are: Dean Flint, Prudential California Realty; Tony Wise, Granter Jewelry and Loan; and Kate Gilpin, Words Into Print.

Results of the election for directors will be announced at the Chamber's Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 18, following the election of the organization's new Executive Board will take place.

Party deadline today

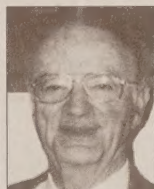
Today is the last chance for members and guests to make reservations for the El Cerrito Chamber annual Holiday Luncheon next Tuesday, December 18, at the Mira Vista Golf and



Jack Freethy



Marge Collins



Harry Kiefer

Country Club.

She concluded by reporting that she and the staff of the needlework/stitchery shop would be happy to put any gift combination, including gift certificates, together for Christmas shoppers.

Santa is coming

Santa will make his pre-Christmas appearance here tomorrow from 10 a.m. to noon at the Farmer's Market at El Cerrito Plaza.

Weather permitting, the jolly gent from the North Pole will be available to have his picture taken with any youngster who brings his own camera.

The Plaza Farmers Market, which features dried fruits and nuts, gourmet items, special breads and much more, will be open for business Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The holiday event will get underway at 11:45 a.m. with a pre-party champagne reception hosted by Jeannie and Michael Klinger of the Sunset View Cemetery Association, followed by a noon buffet luncheon.

Scores of gifts — ranging from gorgeous table lamps to household items, wine and liquor plush animals, second hand toys will be awarded in

the giant gift giveaway which will highlight the days festivities.

Plans also call for the presentation of a special holiday program at this final Chamber social event of the year.

Reservations for the noon luncheon are required, and may be made by telephoning the Chamber office at 510-233-7040 before the close of business today.

Making Christmas gifts

There is still plenty of time to knit or stitch quick Christmas gifts, according to Chamber member Carolyn Pugh, of Skein Lane at 7511 Fairmount Ave.

The most popular quick projects, according to Pugh, are scarves and hats made from various combinations of types of yarn such as Charm, Charming, Dune, Flora, Fur, Eyelash, Hand-painted Originals, Prairie Silk, Silk Garden, Waikiki, Point Five, Isis, Fandango, and Zanziba.

"The combinations," Pugh said, "are endless and charming. In addition, the Heritage Bookmarks from Camus make great quick gifts or stocking stuffers."

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THE JOURNAL

4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806 • 510-940-5551
Published every Friday • Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays

Shareef Dajani, general manager • Dick Sparrer, managing editor
Deborah Byrd, editor Chris Treadway, news editor

Subscriptions are \$30 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$100 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 800-598-4837.

EDITORIAL
All items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance of publication and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

NEWSROOM: 510-243-3575
e-mail: journal@oceans.com
fax: 510-243-3574
voice mail: 510-236-9243

EDITOR Chris Treadway: 510-243-3575
510-243-3574
510-236-9243
c.treadway@oceans.com

NEWS STAFF:
Matt Petersen: 510-243-3577
mpetersen@oceans.com
Clare Curley: 510-243-3576
curley@oceans.com
J.R. Deaton: 510-243-3579
jrd@oceans.com

SPORTS
Bill Krussink: 510-748-1652
bkrussink@oceans.com
Mike McGreehan: 510-748-1661
mmcgreehan@oceans.com
Scott Strain: 510-748-1662
sstrain@oceans.com

MANAGING EDITOR: Dick Sparrer
510-339-4049 • dsparrer@oceans.com

Verified Audit Circulation
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STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

FINISHING TOUCH

TESSA SNYDER, 7, adds a touch of style to the clay dreidel she made last Sunday at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center. The event allowed adults and children to join in making dreidels, candles, olive oil, and enjoy traditional music and food.

Holidays stressful for East Bay residents

Workshop's planners share tips to cope with this year's unique and seasonal concerns

By Tom Lochner
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — 'Tis the season to be jolly, says the popular Christmas song, but to millions of Americans that means the holiday blues, not caroling.

Especially during this first holiday season after Sept. 11, 2001.

"Add to the anxiety over the 9/11 tragedy personal losses of jobs, money, health, loved one's death, divorce, anthrax threat, stock market losses, etc.; you now have some very stressed kids," said Patricia Burkett, an Albany life planning counselor and writer.

On Sunday, Burkett and Larry James, a Richmond child and family therapist, held a workshop at St. Alban's Episcopal Church on "Successful Coping Strategies to Manage Stress and Avoid the Holiday Blues."

It was a continuation of a grief workshop Burkett and St. Alban's pastor, the Rev. Jim Stickney, held at the church two weeks ago. Sunday's conversation wound its way to the Sept. 11 attacks and a nation mourning an innocence and sense of security lost for generations, if not forever.

"Things will never be the same," Burkett said.

Said James: "It's something we'll never get over. If someone doesn't believe me, look at Pearl Harbor. It's still a big event; we still don't have closure."

She compared grieving and closure — if such a thing exists

for grief — to recovery from alcoholism, a lifelong process for those who succeed.

But Burkett, who was widowed five years ago, said: "I believe you do recover from grief. You can move on; you can move forward."

"Grief is cyclical. It's not a step-by-step, paint-by-numbers process."

Many of Burkett's coping strategies — she handed out a list of 77 at the workshop — emphasize charity and acts of kindness to others, as well as to yourself.

She offered an analogy, apropos to these days of fear of flying. Airplane passengers are told during an in-flight safety presentation, "Put the oxygen mask on yourself before you put it on your children or the elderly."

"You're not good to anyone if you're not good to yourself," she said.

Other strategies emphasize positive thinking and reflection.

Said James, "When you look at a mud puddle, do you see mud, or do you see the reflection of the beautiful sky?"

On Sept. 11, after hearing about the attacks, James coped by taking her dog to Richmond's Point Isabel and looking at the sky.

This Christmas, Burkett and James will volunteer at a soup kitchen, they said.

Notwithstanding President Bush's call to go shopping at the mall, we can't spend out our way out of the holiday blues, James said.

Such "super-materialism," Burkett said, leads people to overspend, creating more stress.

"It's more important to pay attention to feelings," she said.

Police chief backs anti-terrorism probe

Albany Police Chief Larry Murdo says his department will cooperate fully with federal authorities seeking to interview people in connection with terrorist activities. Any interviews would be conducted by members of an anti-terrorism task force headed by the United States attorney's office of Northern California.

Several police departments in the Bay Area, including San Francisco, San Jose, Pleasanton, and the San Mateo sheriff's office as well as those in Portland and Corvallis, Ore., have said they would not participate in the interviews.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has ordered the questioning of about 5,000 men between the ages of 18 and 33 who have entered the United States on non-immigrant visas in the last two years as part of a nationwide program to root out domestic terrorists. The men to be interviewed come from places where Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network is active. These are Middle Eastern countries as well as the Philippines, Indonesia, and India.

Ashcroft said the interviews "will provide information and leads that will help identify and apprehend terrorists in our midst before they have an opportunity to cause more pain and suffering to the American people."

Objections to the attorney general's program have come from American Civil Liberties Union chapters across the country charging the interviews "will cause immigrant communities . . . to view law enforcement with distrust and fear." Murdo sees no justification for this as illegal aliens are not being targeted, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service has shown little interest in such cases.

"I do not see a constitutional issue here," said Murdo who has a background in the field of constitutional law as applied to police work. "I do not see what is being threatened by this process. We are in a war and wartime conditions are different from peacetime. But nobody is talking about rounding these people up and putting them in internment camps. I think federal authorities should be assisted."

At this writing, Albany had received no requests for cooperation in the questioning. "I suspect that if there is a request in this area it will go to the University of California Police Department," Murdo said.

The role an Albany officer would play in a federal investigation of this nature is very limited, according to Murdo. A local officer would accompany federal agents on the unan-

nounced visits to persons on Ashcroft's list but would not participate in the questioning or take part in any arrests.

"Outside authorities usually want a uniformed local officer present so that the person being contacted will know those with the officer are legitimate," Murdo explained. "We are not federal agents and won't act as their agents. And we are not going to act as their muscle," he added.

There is no reason to feel threatened by these interviews, according to the chief. "If people don't want to consent to be interviewed they don't have to," Murdo said. If a person refuses to talk with federal authorities, it is then up to the agents to decide if the "evidentiary threshold" justifies taking further action.

Under normal conditions, law enforcement officers must have probable cause to arrest an individual to question him against his will. But in wartime federal agents may be able to physically detain or restrain someone under the umbrella of national security, according to the chief. However, this can't be done without an "articulable connection" between the person and a threat they present to national security.

"Federal agents who conspire to deprive a person of a guaranteed right by detaining them without justification can be charged with a criminal civil rights violation under Title 18 of the United States Code," Murdo stated. "They would face incarceration, and I can't imagine people doing this with the stakes so high."

Murdo blames television and movies for creating the false impression that police possess the constitutional power and authority to compel people to "go downtown" for a witness interview. "But nothing could be further from the truth," Murdo said.

In a department advisory, the chief explained the situation this way: "In our form of government, law enforcement has requisite authority to compel an individual(s) to accompany them to a location only when government has probable cause to arrest the person(s) or the individual reasonably appears in imminent danger if not compelled to move."

"You should be advised that taking a witness to another location against their will, merely to pursue a criminal investigation, violates the Fourth Amendment prohibition of unreasonable seizures by government."

CHRISTMAS BONDING: Parents who plan to give their children video games and other passive forms of entertainment

for Christmas should consider introducing them to a creative activity like model-building. I grew up during World War II building models of that war's planes as well as those of the first World War. And by reading about them, I learned a good deal of these conflicts.

Modeling also taught me what Lance Klokkevold, proprietor of the Kit and Caboodle hobby shop in the El Cerrito Plaza, calls PIP: Patience, innovativeness, and persistence.

Patience and persistence are required to finish a model after the first enthusiasm fades. And it takes innovativeness to overcome the problems that usually crop up. But a child who has acquired these qualities is much more likely to finish projects he begins in later life. And a parent working with the child will find this is truly quality time. A good way to begin modeling is with snap-together planes or cars, says Fran Behringer, manager of the Kit and Caboodle. These kits are suitable for children as young as 6. Neither glue nor paint is required, as the interlocking parts are color-molded plastic. "This is a step up from Legos," she says.

Our son, Dixon, began by assembling more advanced plastic plane and car models that must be glued and painted. This was fun, a great learning experience, and in today's jargon, "bonding" for us. Kids can build these kits in a few hours. And as their skills increase, they can produce more sophisticated models which take much longer. (Lance told me he once spent months painting the intricate camouflage on a small model of a WW I Halberstadt two-seater.)

Dixon and our family had wonderful times with simple gliders and wind-up flyers. Many an afternoon we flew them in the field — and sometimes clear off the field — near the Brazilian Room in Tilden Park. Very young kids can start this way and work up to radio-controlled gliders. It's a short jump from there to electric- or gasoline-powered planes, vehicles and boats.

Whitewing has some unusual gliders easily built from paper and balsa wood that come five or more to a package. They also make three more advanced gliders com-



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

Real hobby stores like the Kit and Caboodle have nearly disappeared in recent years, and we are extremely fortunate to have one of these magic places nearby.

plete with rubber-band launcher.

Guilow puts out an excellent line starting with a basic glider and three wind-ups of increasing complexity.

With these kits a child not only learns PIP but has the fun of playing with what he has built. The same is true of model boats, although there are fewer kits.

There are so many ways to start a child modeling that it can be baffling to parents who are not modelers. But both Lance and Fran are experts in this field and in determining which model fits a child's interests and level of maturity.

Real hobby stores like the Kit and Caboodle have nearly disappeared in recent years, and we are extremely fortunate to have one of these magic places nearby.

But it does present a problem for those like me who never grew up: There is always something we want ourselves. It may be a collectable, metal replica car, a biplane kite, or perhaps a book like the one on the Fokker D-7 I could not resist.

And then there is the Firebird II, a nifty, ready to fly, 31-inch, electric-powered, pusher type plane which comes with an instructional video — and all for less than a century note! "No cheaper or easier way to learn to fly," says Lance with a smile. He knows when he has a fish on the line.

"Up to now something like this would have cost you \$500."

I just hope Santa reads my column.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Redevelopment can work in El Cerrito

These are heady times for El Cerrito.

The El Cerrito Plaza shopping center is finally coming back online, site by site. In recent days On Tuesday the center's parking lot has been as full as at any time since the Emporium closed.

An enlarged Honda auto dealership anchors the north end of town, and a Mazda dealership has moved into Honda's former spot.

A residential/retail project is set to go on the extensive properties of the former El Cerrito Mill & Lumber and plans have been submitted to put a new unit of a major lodging chain where a past-its-prime roadside motel now stands.

Even the midtown Albertson's store that closed last week Monday would seem to be more an opportunity than a setback given its proximity to the lumberyard property.

It all adds up to sales tax dollars and potential sales tax dollars for a city long starved for both, particularly since the department store closed.

It wasn't too long ago in its drive for new commerce that El Cerrito, through its redevelopment agency, competed for and offered subsidies for these very types of projects, with spotty results and considerable controversy. Criticism over the cost of diverting time of the city staff from regular duties to redevelopment work reached a point that the City Council agency suspended its activities until its debt for staff time was repaid.

In the meantime, the two largest recent projects the city has approved, the Plaza revitalization and the Mill & Lumber project, happened without any redevelopment participation.

Now redevelopment is back, reactivated by the City Council two months ago. That's not necessarily a bad thing. Like a hammer, redevelopment can build things or knock them apart, depending on how it's used.

Redevelopment set the tone for the strip-mall development at the city's north end. A number of established businesses were displaced in the process. The new development fills a need and is logical for the city's only expanse of freeway frontage. At the same time, the area is the lone impression of El Cerrito for the tens of thousands of commuters who pass through daily on Interstate 80, offering little differentiation from other cities fronting the I-180-I-880 corridor.

Redevelopment helped create that image and it can help change it. Smaller businesses, not the large ones, differentiate a city and its identity to the outside world. They can fill in the gaps that make too much of San Pablo Avenue generic and less inviting. Used correctly, redevelopment can encourage that type of development and help bring some individuality, cohesiveness and attractiveness to the city's commercial area.

How to reach our staff:

DEBORAH BYRD, editor
510-262-2724 • dbyrd@cctimes.com

CLARE CURLEY, reporter
510-243-3576 • ccurley@cctimes.com

J.R. DEATON, reporter
510-243-3579 • jdeaton@cctimes.com

BILL KRUSSINK, sports editor
510-748-1652 • bkruissink@cctimes.com

MATT PETERSEN, reporter
510-243-3578 • mpetersen@cctimes.com

CHRIS TREADWAY, news editor
510-243-3575 • ctreadway@cctimes.com

HOW TO REACH US

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From triumph to triumph

Not enough attention is being given to our government and the great things it has done and is doing for our country. Let us review merely a few recent accomplishments.

Traditionally, we consider how well the government is doing by how well the economy is doing.

Too many of us are now neglecting to do such an assessment, which shows exactly where we stand. Was our money ever so safe?

Overseas, there was the speedy way in which the government has dealt with Afghanistan.

In a few brief weeks, they have accomplished what neither the British nor the Russians could do in years. America will now be safe.

Then there were the massive tax cuts to benefit the upper echelon of General Electric, IBM and General Motors. These people will now be safe.

Soon our government will enact all of the 51 anti-terrorist bills listed under the title, "Proved Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism." These masterful measures will, in effect, put an end to our Bill of Rights.

Soon, all of us will be guilty until proven innocent and our country will be able to move forward like some other large countries unencumbered by the American Civil Liberties Union or Molly Ivins and her ilk. Soon we shall all be safe.

A responsibility of citizenship is to be aware of our great government's accomplishments and to give it credit for the ways in which it moves from triumph to triumph.

Frederick Shaw
El Cerrito

Profile this!

The stunning capture of John Walker, a white American in the Taliban and al-Qaida, raises a vital question: Should the government racially profile white people? Will supporters of racial profiling of Arab-Americans and Muslims endorse racial profiling of white people?

Already, many whites shamelessly excuse Walker, calling him "brainwashed," "a sweet kid," or "a 20-year-old who made bad decisions." It's as if Walker swiped a candy bar and deserves a spanking from Mommy!

Walker trained in bin Laden's terror camps, met bin Laden repeatedly and sustained injuries during the bloody Taliban prison uprising, suggesting active resistance. Further, Walker said he fully supports the Sept. 11 slaughter.

Walker must not "walk" just because he's white and American.

The government should charge him

with conspiracy, an agreement between two or more people to commit a crime. A conspiracy charge requires an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy. Walker trained with al-Qaida and met bin Laden repeatedly, both overt acts.

All members of a conspiracy are guilty of the criminal acts of their co-conspirators, even if unaware of those acts. If guilty of conspiracy, Walker is as responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks as the 19 hijackers.

The capture of John Walker is hugely significant because a white man is one of bin Laden's people. Hopefully, this development quiets the ferocious drumbeat demanding racial profiling of Arab-Americans and Muslims.

But if racial profiling commences, then young white men belong in the dragnet. After all, Walker is one of them.

Gurman Singh
Berkeley

Usurping authority

As could be expected, George W. Bush acted in a characteristically abrupt and unconstitutional manner in authorizing an order for military tribunals.

His act, destructive of civil liberties, usurped the clear authority of Congress to declare war.

That's par for the son of Bush and inheritor of the ultra-conservative tradition dating back to Tory days.

Dan Freudenthal
El Cerrito

Applauds Bush

I applaud President Bush for his actions since Sept. 11 to bring Osama bin Laden to justice and applaud his diplomatic efforts.

This may be the first time in history that all the most powerful nations on earth, the United States, England, Russia, and China, as well as Germany, Japan, France and Spain, have agreed on a common purpose.

Terrorism is pure evil that must be wiped out. And any nation giving terrorists sanctuary will become a pariah nation — shunned, boycotted and sanctioned.

To those peaceniks saying we should try peaceful means in Afghanistan, for those writing letters trying, somehow, to make the United States guilty of bringing on the Sept. 11 attack because of alleged past U.S. imperialism, I say: Come live in the real world.

Do they ever think about the children or the wives who kissed their daddies and husbands good-bye that morning? They will never be able to do so again.

John McCain had it right when he said to the terrorists that God may have mercy on them; we will not.

Killing some 3,000 innocent people and inflicting pain and sorrow on countless others for no logical reason is evil. By refusing to turn in Osama bin Laden, the Taliban gave him sanctuary and brought upon themselves what is happening.

It would be wonderful if peace and love could overcome everything, but it's not going to happen. Wolves will never agree with sheep on a vegetarian diet.

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, Peace does not come from laying down our arms, it comes with eternal vigilance.

Morris Chabon

El Cerrito

We must be aware

Circulating on e-mail is an essay titled, "Love It or Leave It." In essence, it says: "How could they do this to us? Do they know how lovable we are?"

We want to believe we are a generous loving people. It is simplistic to say "Love it or leave it." It is not entirely our fault that news is controlled so that most of us are unaware of the things our nation does in our name.

There are three books that will make our awareness of actions done in our name. The Richmond Library owns the 1995 version of "When Corporations Rule the Earth," by David C. Korten, but there is an updated version available in stores this year.

"Taking Back Our Lives in an Age of Corporate Dominance," by Elizabeth Schwartz and Suzanne Stoddard, reveals how corporations control our lives. Kevin Danaher wrote, "Corporations Gonna Get Your Mama!" which I have found yet.

Joan Baranowski
El Cerrito

No response yet

In early November, we received in the mail an ominous letter, similar to the one shown on TV — the exact style of writing and form.

There was no return address and it was not addressed to anyone who lived in our apartment complex (for at least the last three or four years). It was obviously from a country overseas, but we could not make out where.

The police were called and, as they took the letter away, we were told to go through channels, then taken to the post office, with government "testing" to follow.

My question is: Does the author's intention start the minute you come in contact with it?

To this date, we have received no word from anyone about the outcome.

Earl Collins

El Cerrito

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Two men who truly embody the spirit of the season



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

Every year at this time, our thoughts inevitably turn toward two men without whom Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas.

I'm speaking, of course, of the Sundar Shadi, the most beloved man in El Cerrito, and Charles, the most beloved man in Berkeley. Until now, when failing eyesight forced him to stop, Mr. Shadi has passed down the generations East Bay residents with the awesome — no other word for it — displays he created in his front yard. He was a real-life Santa Claus who gave his neighbors something more precious than toys — namely, the spirit of Christmas.

Waving Man

Mr. Charles, of course, is the legendary Berkeley Waving Man. For 30 years, from 1962 to 1992, he stood in front of his house at the corner of Oregon

HOW TO HELP

Money is needed to repair and refurbish the Sundar Shadi sculptures, which have deteriorated a bit over the years. Checks (tax-deductible, of course) can be sent to: Soroptomist International of El Cerrito, Attn: Shadi Project, P.O. Box 324, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

and Martin Luther King and greeted each passing car with a cheery "Keep smiling!" and "Have a good day!" He became everyone's surrogate grandfather, a living embodiment of the best of Berkeley.

Since their retirement, their friends and neighbors have tried to give them a little bit of love back. Every year at this time, we've sent Christmas cards to Mr. Shadi. And he's been very touched. "It's made him feel so good to know that people remember and care," says his daughter, Vera.

And every year, we've gathered underneath Mr. Charles's window to serenade him with Christmas carols. Last year, an entire class from Le Conte School showed up; and Mr. Charles was so pleased, the smile on his face stretched



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

FORMER EL CERRITO Mayor Jane Bartke looks over the collection of items from the Sundar Shadi Christmas display, now stored in the old El Cerrito Lumber Mill. Bartke is hoping to restore and display the collection by next December.

from ear to ear.

Alas, this year there's been a major change of plans. The Christmas caroling for Mr. Charles was scheduled for this Sunday at 5 p.m., but he might not be up to it. I won't know for sure until Sunday morning, which is when we'll make the final decision. So if you're a Waving Man fan — and who isn't? — call me Sunday at 510-273-9039, and I'll leave a voice-mail message saying whether we're on or off. I'm sorry to leave you hanging like this, but it's the best I can do.

Folk art

As for Mr. Shadi, he's now 101 and living in a rest home. And to tell the truth, he's just too out of it most of the time to appreciate the Christmas cards anymore.

This is sad news, even though we all knew we were going to have to face it sooner or later. For us, the beneficiaries of his creativity and generosity, the question now becomes: How can we preserve Mr. Shadi's priceless legacy?

And make no mistake about it — it is priceless. These sculptures are authentic folk art, just like the work of Grandma Moses.

In a couple of years they'll be so valuable, only people like Bill Gates will be able to afford to buy them. It makes sense for the people of El Cerrito to glom on to them now, while they still can.

Fortunately, they can, thanks to a familiar trio of civic-

minded residents — Jane Bartke, Jack Freethy and the El Cerrito firefighters.

Bartke, a former mayor, is now head of the El Cerrito Soroptomists Club, which has physical possession of the Shadi sculptures — at least, what's left of them. The Halloween scene was given to Madera School, and the Thanksgiving scene has been sold. But the farm scene and the all-important Christmas display are more or less intact, with doves, sheep, lambs, angels, shepherds, cows, horses, donkeys, dogs, camels and Bibles — literally scores of sculptures, ranging in weight from a few ounces to hundreds of pounds.

That's where the firemen came in. They provided the muscle power to haul the sculptures from Mr. Shadi's house to their present storage space at the El Cerrito Mill & Lumber Building — which was donated by Jack Freethy.

The plan is to refurbish the sculptures and find a permanent spot where they can be displayed every Christmas. Right now, you can see a few of them in the windows of another El Cerrito institution, Pastime Hardware. But they're just a fraction of the total collection.

The official custodian of the sculptures is the El Cerrito Community Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization whose membership currently coincides with the membership of the El Cerrito Soroptomists.

But Bartke has cleverly drawn up the bylaws to make it easy for non-Soroptomists to join the project, too. "I wanted to make it as flexible as possible, to adapt to changing conditions in the future," she says.

How can you help? Right now, they need three things: storage space, volunteers and money.

El Cerrito Mill & Lumber was sold last summer, which means another storage space will have to be found. The new owners are being really nice about it, and they aren't giving Bartke the rush.

But she'll need to find another space in the next two or three months. (Failing that, she could use waterproof storage containers.) If you can help, give her a buzz at 510-235-1315. That's also the number to call if you want to volunteer.

And money is needed to repair and refurbish the sculptures, which have deteriorated a bit over the years. Send your checks (tax-deductible, of course) to: Soroptomist International of El Cerrito, Attn: Shadi Project, P.O. Box 324, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Just in dollars-and-sense terms, this is a gilt-edged investment. The value of these sculptures can only go one way: right through the roof. But this is about more than just money. It's about preserving a priceless part of our past.

If we all allow these sculptures to slip through our fingers now, we'll all be kicking ourselves in 10 years when our kids ask, "Who was Sundar Shadi?"

E-mail Martin Snapp at catman@california.com or call him at 510-273-9039. Remember: Call Sunday morning to find out if the Christmas caroling for Mr. Charles is on or off.



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

FIGURES created over the years by Sundar Shadi, seen here in a group, are considered folk art.

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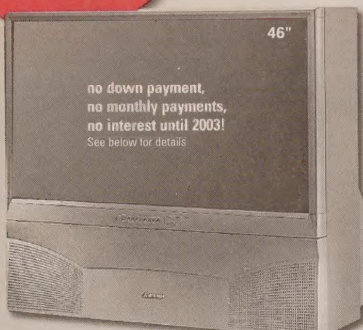
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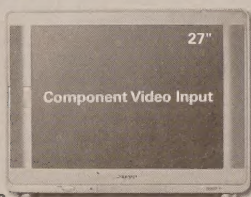
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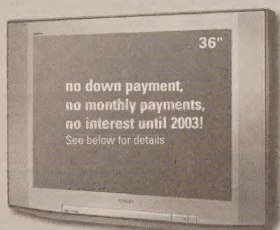
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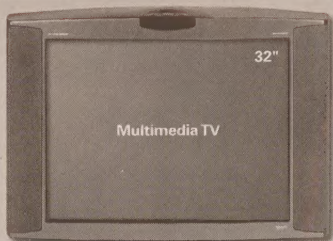
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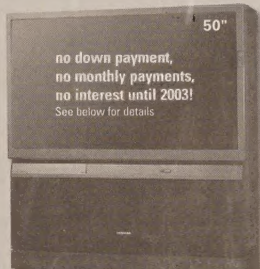
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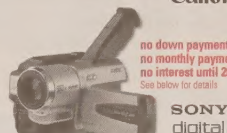
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 20X optical/560X digital zoom and Super NightShot™ LLL for easy connection to your PC.



799⁹⁹
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DVD/CD Players



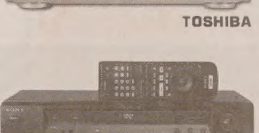
89⁹⁹
JVC 4-Head HiFi Stereo Clock Set
 Just plug it in and get music. Clock Set, Auto Tuner Set, Auto Picture and more.



179⁹⁹
JVC DVD/CD Player
 Includes 10-bit/27MHz converter for sharp picture. Dolby Digital/DTSP output.



279⁹⁹
Toshiba Convenient 5-Head Changer with Progressive Scan
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299⁹⁹
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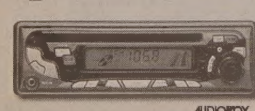


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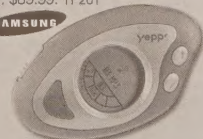


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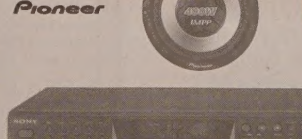
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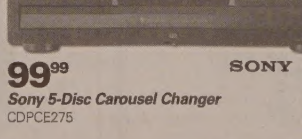
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Advocacy group says top video games send negative message to children

Oakland-based child advocacy group has released a report that says that most of the top-selling video games contain some type of violence and do not adequately represent women and minorities. Children Now president Lois Salisbury said the popularity of video games should make parents aware of the negative messages that children are playing. The report also says that the death of racial and gender diversity and the predominance of violence in top-selling video games sends negative messages to our children. Salisbury's report, titled "Fair Play? Violence and Race in Video Games," was released this week by Children Now.

The report, titled "Fair Play? Violence and Race in Video Games," was released this week by Children Now. The report concludes that parents who want to monitor the amount of violence that their children are exposed to should not buy video games based solely on their ratings, which are given by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board. While the board has a rating of "E" for "Everyone," the research conducted by Children Now found that some of these games contain depictions of violence that some

parents might find inappropriate. Of the 43 "E" rated games used in the analysis, 79 percent contained some type of violence, while 28 of them had "serious" depictions of violence. The study also found that 16 of the games, or 37 percent of them, contained characters who were wearing revealing clothing, or who were partially nude. In studying games for equal representation of gender and ethnicity, the Children Now survey found few "girl-friendly" games or positive ethnic characters. The study evaluated games for being girl-friendly by examining them for several of the features that girls find appealing, such as the ability to create something and cooperative play. Overall, 61 percent of the games had less than

half of the elements that girls enjoy. Games for personal computers, however, generally had the most girl-friendly features. Of the 1,716 characters analyzed in the study, 64 percent, or 1,106, were white men, while 283 of them, or 17 percent, were white female characters. On average, each game depicted 17 male characters to four female characters. More than half of the games in the study had two or fewer female characters. The study also found that very few of the female characters were player-controlled, which means they appeared mostly as props or bystanders. Nearly half of the female characters found in the video games were inactive participants. The study also found female characters were frequently stereo-

typed and more likely to scream, nurture or wear revealing clothing. In analyzing the games for racial diversity, the study found that 46 of the 53 heroes that were analyzed were white. Eight percent of the heroes were Asian, 4 percent were black and 2 percent were Latino. Overall, 56 percent of the human characters were white, while 22 percent of the characters were black. Asian characters accounted for 9 percent of all characters, while Latinos made up only 2 percent of the video game population. Most of the black male characters were found in sports games, while every one of the 32 Latino characters recorded was an athlete — usually a baseball player. Nearly three-quarters of the Asian characters were wrestlers or fighters, and cast as villains in 18 percent of the games.

Salisbury of Children Now said that parents should be careful when choosing video game gifts. "This holiday season, as parents buy entertainment gifts for their children, they should not assume that ratings or brand names are a substitute for their own judgment about what is best for their children," she said. The group also has with a list of recommendations and tips that can help parents better determine if a particular video game is appropriate for their children. First of all, the group said, it is important that a parent knows their child, and is able to tell whether the violence depicted in the games is going to negatively impact them. The group also said it is a good idea for parents to play the games with their children to determine how the game affects them and how they react to the features, and to have the games in a public area so that they can monitor the play. And while the ESRB ratings are not the final word on the content of a game, the packaging and game descriptions on the box could help parents determine the appropriateness of a game. Children Now also recommends parents rent a video game before buying it, and that they talk to other parents about their experiences with video game titles.

High school's origami cranes go to New York school

Staff Report
Congressman George Miller

ist attacks. The students, who study Japanese with teacher Nobuko Satake at El Cerrito High, were inspired by an old Japanese legend that says folding 1,000 cranes will please the gods, who will grant the folder a wish. The students created their

cranes to express their sorrow over the Sept. 11 attacks, and their wish for peace. "I am so proud of the students at El Cerrito High School for wanting to deliver their message of caring and compassion to the students in New York City," said Miller.

Miller, D-Martinez, planned to hand over the cranes to U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-New York, who will present them to students of Stuyvesant High School. Students at Stuyvesant High School, which Shumer's daughter attends, were forced out of their building following the attacks.

Consumer tips on shopping wisely for the holidays

Whether you shop by telephone, in traditional retail stores or online, it pays to be a savvy consumer. Here are some tips to help you shop wisely.

Know your rights
Check out refund and return policies before you buy. Read the fine print. When shopping online, sometimes key restrictions on a sale are contained in the "fine print" on a Web site. Click on any hyperlinks leading to warranty or rebate information, additional costs, or other key information before you buy online. Check around the site since this

information may be buried under a general link, for example under "Terms and Conditions." Check delivery dates. When you place an order, the vendor usually tells you when to expect delivery. A FTC rule requires sellers to ship items as promised or within 30 days after the order date, when no specific date is promised. If the seller can't ship the goods within the promised or 30-day deadline, the seller must notify you, give you a chance to cancel your order and provide a full re-

fund if you've chosen to cancel. The seller also has the option of cancelling your order and refunding your money. Review warranties. Many high-tech gadgets and appliances come with warranties. You have the right to review a warranty before you purchase a product. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, call the Federal Trade Commission toll-free, 877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).



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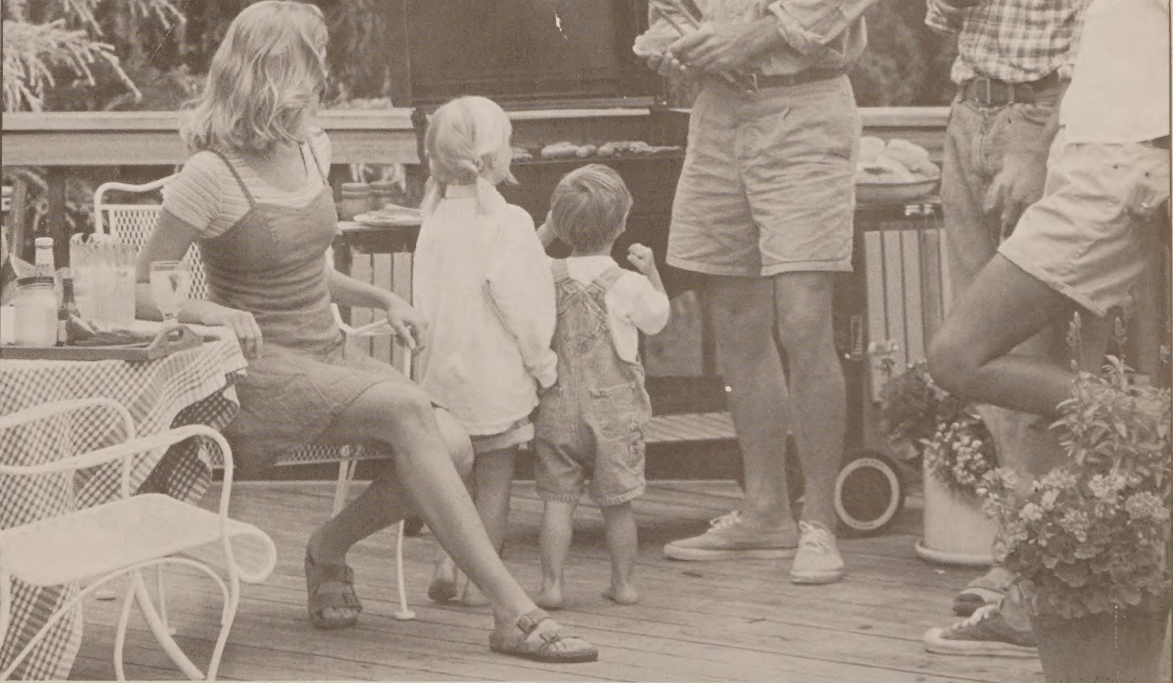
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Albany Council considers ways to pay for improvement projects

■ City will survey residents on capital improvements, may consider parcel tax

By Matt Petersen
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The City Council wrestled with budget issues at its last meeting of the year Monday, looking for ways to raise revenues, cut costs and find funding for up to \$35 million in capital improvement projects needing to be completed by 2011.

The city needs to find ways to pay for a variety of projects ranging from resurfacing streets to a \$2 million seismic upgrade to the fire and police stations.

With about 21 such projects on the list, the council decided to ask residents which they think should be done first. A random-sample survey will be conducted by mail or phone to gauge the public's feelings about the projects.

Voters also may be asked to vote on two parcel tax measures next year.

Although the city has secured grants for many uses in the past, City Administrator Beth Pollard pointed out that a majority of the

projects awaiting funding would not qualify for a grant.

The city also adopted a policy limiting contributions to local nonprofits to years in which there is a surplus in the budget.

The policy came on the heels of the city's donation in January of \$18,000 to Cafe Eclectica, the nonprofit teen gathering place on Solano Avenue. At that meeting, the City Council agreed to make the contribution by a 3-2 vote, but that a policy would have to be put in place rather than arbitrarily handing out donations.

By another 3-2 vote on Monday, the new policy passed.

The dissenting votes came from Mayor Peggy Thomsen and Councilman Allan Maris.

Thomsen provoked a discussion in the tug-of-war philosophy of government spending: Do you save your surplus for unforeseen emergencies, or do you make it a priority every year to fund local nonprofits? Thomsen made a plea for the former.

"I highly believe in helping (small) organizations, but my reason for having a problem with this is there are so many services to be funded," she said. "We have to keep focused on those projects

(police and fire) because they're so expensive.

"So I'd have a really difficult time using money in this way, I feel we have to fund basic city services."

Maris, who led efforts to establish Cafe Eclectica last June, was in favor of the city helping small businesses and organizations stay afloat, and wants it to be a line item in the budget.

"I think promoting community efforts is important to the city and I don't think it has to be a lot (of money)," said Maris. "But if we look at it during surplus time, it's not going to be available very often."

The council also agreed to raise rental fees for its recreational facilities, noting that Albany's cost of living has increased by 3 percent since the last fee increase in 1993. Fees to rent meeting rooms and social halls such as the Albany Community Center and the Albany Senior Center or to reserve will go up, as will reservations at Ocean View, Terrace and Memorial parks. Tokens for the lights at the Memorial Park tennis courts will go up from \$1.50 to \$3.



Onstage at El Cerrito High School

DRAMA STUDENTS at El Cerrito High School rehearse for the drama department's production "The Primary English Class." The comedy is being performed at 8 p.m. today and Saturday at the school's Little Theatre, 540 Ashbury Ave. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 510-540-2100.

Plans

FROM PAGE A1

"I think that the building is consistent with some of the larger buildings in that part of town," Potter said. "I think it fits very appropriately near the freeway and near the other denser commercial uses."

As for the Dylan's Way project, commissioners and several residents of the area raised concerns including aesthetics, traffic safety, lot size, continued stability of nearby trees, area

wildlife and an earthquake fault that runs under the site.

Residents of the area presented a 38-signature petition to the commission requesting a number of changes including that only three new homes, not four, be constructed.

"The current plans for siting three homes in the area east of the fault zone is inconsistent with the home density and appearance within the area and results in a group of homes which are out of character with the balance of the neighborhood," the petition states.

It's going to look like a San Francisco house, not a View Court residence.

Neighbors at the meeting also complained that one of the houses would face east, with the front of the house facing the street, turning onto Ashbury Avenue, or the proposed Dylan's Way project.

Outlook

FROM PAGE A1

earthquake in 1989, it was touch-and-go.

The post-quake November 1989 issue has a front page notice: "Anna-Maria Hertzler and I have carried on with the production of this issue on our regular schedule although we have no assurances that the printer, mailing service and post office will be able to provide timely delivery."

Gossard has lived in Kensington with her family since 1972 and before that in El Cerrito and Berkeley. She has the efficient, warm manner of someone who might have been a Cub Scout den mother at one time.

Ferry

FROM PAGE A1

proposed pier. Preliminary ideas call for parking at Golden Gate Fields. City officials were adamant about keeping commuters from parking in residential areas.

The WTA has requested the list by Dec. 21 and is aiming to have an implementation plan completed by the end of 2002.

A California Senate Bill created the WTA in 1999 to look at options to help address transportation problems throughout the Bay Area. According to the WTA, it is estimated that the average transbay commute time will increase 50 percent by 2020.

The council was unanimously in agreement for taking the extra step toward possibly bringing the service to the area and said it was thankful for the WTA's goal of reducing traffic.

Before becoming editor, she was a volunteer with the paper for a year. As editor she was paid part-time, but said she pretty much worked full-time to get the paper out on time.

"What I enjoyed was that I was constantly observing the interaction between individuals and groups and the elected people on the boards," she said. "There is just kind of a continuing process of watching issues develop and trying to keep people informed about them."

Lettieri, the Outlook's new editor, said she is planning no radical changes to the publication and is looking forward to doing the job. At 48, she has lived in Kensington since 1988 and has prior experience as a magazine publisher and journalist.

Lettieri works as the devel-

opment director of the East Bay French-American School in Berkeley. The Outlook job will be done part-time at home.

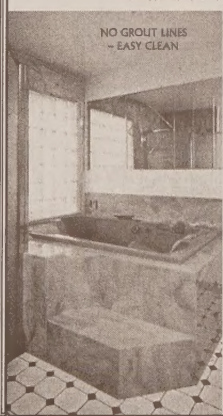
"As far as I'm concerned there will be really no changes — my priority is the police blotter and local news," she said. "Kensington is a very interesting place. We're like the original non-town. Everything is volunteer-based; it's kind of an intriguing place."

Although Gossard said it's nice not to have a deadline to meet this month, she has mixed feelings about no longer being on the Outlook's masthead.

"I'll miss not getting the information," she said. "I've enjoyed just being there and learning about what's going on."

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the season. With the



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All so important. All so in need
of help. All so worthwhile.

One day you sent a check to
the Boys Club. Now come the
rest of them. The Scouts, the
Girls Clubs, Save the Children,
the many, many wonderful children's
charities. All so very im-
portant, all so much in need of
help. All so very worthwhile.

You always supported the
United Negro College Fund,
now you realized that the Indi-
ans, too, have college funds,
that their minds, too, are a
shame to waste, that they

needed your support, so you
sent them a check. Now come
the proliferation of schools and
ministries that help the native
Americans (their charities say
"Indians") who, heaven knows,
need your help. All so very im-
portant, all so much in need of
help. All so very worthwhile.

And so it goes, and so it has
been going for years. More and
more agencies to help more
and more people in need. And
all really important, all really in
need of help, and all so very
worthwhile.

And with the terrible hap-
penings of 9/11 all of this be-
came magnified. The need be-
came greater, the number of
people in need of help doubled
or tripled, and those who could
give had given to the terribly
needy people who suffered
these terrors. It has become a
double whammy. So many let-
ters that you become inured to

all of it. You are frozen into in-
action.

Well, I was. I had always
read the letters carefully, be-
cause they deserved that. Now
I was at the point where I
couldn't open them. I wanted to
do something about every one
of them. But I couldn't. So I de-
cided to just give to our local
agencies, to those in the East
Bay I know and care about
deeply. And do you know, that
has almost defeated me, also.
They are so many, and they,
too, are so needy.

The food pantries, with their
almost empty shelves, and with
more and more people seeking
their help as the economy
"softens". Places like GRIP's
Souper Center, (GRIP is the
Greater Richmond Interfaith
Program) which feeds hungry

people, homeless, poor and
working poor, offers a place to
take a shower, offers counsel-
ing and referral to those who
need it.

The Early Childhood Educa-
tion, with its coming crisis in
paying for its home. The Edu-
cation Funds and Foundations
so very important to the
schools and the community col-
lege, paying for those things
the budget just won't reach.
And so much more. The local
agencies of national organiza-
tions that work with immi-
grants, prisoners, the hungry
throughout the world, and the
sick throughout the world, and
on and on. So many. So impor-
tant. So very worthwhile.

What does one do? How
does one help? I don't know. I
haven't found the answer. I do

what I can and save letters in
hopes that I can do something
later — save them until they
pile up and become a fire haz-
ard. Then they go. But they will
soon be replaced. Because they
do keep coming. Those Letters.
The Fund-Raising Letters that
tear me apart, that induce me
to send out my little checks
that go out into the great be-
yond and inspire more people
to write to me about their
causes. So real. So important.
So very worthy.

I have gone to seminars that
are supposed to help with this
question. They only tell you to
be sure your charity is real and
the people honest. Not a lot of
help. Sorry. If you expected an
answer, you must be as frus-
trated as I am. Isn't it sad?

Volunteers invited to help with Baxter Creek restoration effort

The Friends of Baxter Creek
will hold two creek restoration events
this weekend.

Volunteers are invited to help
plant trees at a Canyon Trail
Work party from 9 a.m. to
12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

This is FOBC's first work
party at the El Cerrito park. Over
the summer, several trees that
shaded the creek and
for birds were cut down.

Volunteers will be replanting the creek
with trees and shrubs in
order to retain the lovely
feel of this urban park.

Volunteers will meet at the
Baxter Creek near the
where Conlon Avenue in-
tersects the park. Gardening
tools will be available, but FOBC
urges volunteers to bring
their own favorites. Gloves,
water and water will be pro-
vided. Children under 15 should

come with an adult.

The planting will take place
even in inclement weather.
Strong rain, however, will cancel
this event.

The park is at 6757 Gatto St.
Mira Vista work party

On Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to
12:30 p.m. the community is
invited join a FOBC work party at
Mira Vista Field in Richmond.
Volunteers will plant native wild-
flowers and grasses that were
grown this winter from seed col-
lected at the field and continue
to weed non-native plants.

Volunteers will meet at the
Sierra entrance of the field near
the signboard. Plants like to be
put in the ground on cool, driz-
zly days, say FOBC organizers,

so the project will go on even in
inclement weather. Only strong
rain will cancel this event. Tools,
gloves, snacks, and drinks will
be provided.

For more information, contact
Apple at 510-231-5778 or ap-
ple@aoi-institute.org.

Directions to Mira Vista Field:
Take Barrett Avenue to Dimm
Street, right onto Ventura, then
proceed about one block to
Sierra Avenue.

Take a right onto Sierra,
which dead-ends at the entrance
gate to the Mira Vista Field, just
east of the Tulare Avenue cross
street.

For more information on ei-
ther event or the FOBC, call 510-
231-5778 or e-mail apple@aoi-
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Colors and calendars rise from concrete

Art from the streets is subject of Telegraph Avenue calendar

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

Berkeley street artists get a chance to strut their stuff in the 2002 Telegraph Street Calendar, available for sale — where else? — on city street corners.

Ace Backwords and B.N. Duncan, co-publishers of the 13th annual Telegraph Street Calendar, said it showcases artistic expression "from street people and others in the social-fringe scene."

Backwords, 45, a cartoonist, writer and former journalist who looks a little rough around the edges, describes his situation as "quasi-homeless" and said most of the artists featured in the calendar either are or have been homeless. He said the effort is "hopefully" entrepreneurial and if enough calendars sell, the artists will be paid.

"The street scene is like a tribe — sort of like a tribe of its own," Backwords said. "It's really no different than other tribes. It's just people, basically, who are unique in their own way."

Duncan, 58, smoking a cigarette and sporting a scraggly reddish beard, agreed. "We try to show this kind of socially marginal milieu as something with its own norms," he said, "rather than just people to be looked down on or feel sorry for because they aren't in the mainstream."

Duncan has lived in Berkeley most of his life, and said the south campus Telegraph Avenue area "certainly is the closest thing to really having a neighborhood I've ever had."

It has become a bit of an honor to be included in the annual calendar, Backwords said. "It started out just as a yearbook of the people we were hanging out with — just something to give to my friends. Now it's sort of become almost like the publication-of-record for the scene. People come up and say — I've been on the scene for 10 years — how come I'm not in there?"

Richard List, 55, is featured for the month of July in the calendar and called himself an "authentic fake" and "pretentious artist," because, he said, "I pretend my stuff has importance."

"I haven't done anything since Sept. 11 because I don't want to surprise anybody, but I used to do a lot of surprises," List said. His "plop art" has included putting toilet bowl seat covers on the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. "I put a giant condom on the Golden Bear statue," he said with a sense of accomplishment.

His "street museum" in the vacant lot at Haste and Telegraph streets survived for a few years. "I call it plop art where I plop stuff without permission."

Artist Ray Winters, 60 years old and originally from Detroit, has sold his art works on Telegraph for the past six or seven years. Before that, for years he made and sold Hacky Sack-style foot beanbags and other wares on the avenue — and before that, he was a successful traditional businessman. His art is made with help from a computer and has a stained-glass, multicolored mosaic look.

"I work on things," Winters said. "I just try to stay open minded — and I smoke a little pot — and I get wild ideas. And when

I get wild ideas I've learned to implement them.

"I've been doing art since I was about 9 years old, but this has been a breakthrough and it started about seven years ago," he said pointing to one of his colorful works. "It was a small little thing," he said to describe his artistic epiphany.

"Have you ever noticed eyes, human eyes, have a little glassiness on the eye when you look at someone's eye?" Winters asked. "That little glassiness is what makes the eye come alive ... what dawned on me is what if I started applying that little bit of glassiness all over the painting?"

The 2002 Telegraph Street Calendar costs \$12 (\$10 at Backwords' table) and is available at Cody's Books, Tower Records and other Telegraph Avenue area businesses. Backwords usually has his table set up outside Cody's at Telegraph and Haste on days it's not raining.



THE COVER of the 2001 Telegraph Street Calendar.

Photo exhibit revisits the horror of Sept. 11 attacks

By Tom Lochner
STAFF WRITER

Sept. 11 started out as the most humdrum of days for New York Daily News photographer Susan Watts. So much so that she wore her cowboy boots instead of her usual sneakers, convinced she wouldn't need to move fast.

Her assignment: shoot politics voting in the mayoral primary.

She was in a coffee shop on Manhattan's East Side downloading pictures on her laptop when she got the page from her editor: "Leave Election — plane just hit the World Trade Center; 8:52 a.m. 09/11/01." She keeps the page as a memento.

FDR Drive to Lower Manhattan was "like a parking lot," she remembered. As emergency vehicles blared past, Watts seized the moment, "white-knuckling it ... millimeters behind the bumper" of a police truck. "The caravan delivered me to the foot of the World Trade Center," she remembered. "One of the first things I see is bodies falling from the sky." Her camera caught it.

Watts and New York Times photographer Ed Keating showed slides of their work at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism during opening day of the exhibit "Here Is New York — Images from the Frontline of History." It's a selection of 200 prints by professionals and amateurs from a show in New York's SoHo district.

Reprints can be bought for \$25, with proceeds to benefit children of victims of the terrorist attack.

Several hundred people attended Sunday's opening. Many had grown up or lived in New York or had some other personal connection to the city.

"This could have been me," said Theodosia Zeleznik, a United Airlines flight attendant, looking at a picture of buildings protruding from a cloud of smoke. "You can actually see the city changing in a flash." She had been "on reserve" in San Francisco on Sept. 10, pleading to be put on a flight to the East Coast so she could take in "some culture."

Her scheduler, however, sent her to Los Angeles, where she was

IF YOU GO

What: "Here Is New York," a photo exhibit from ground zero

Where: UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, North Gate Hall, Euclid and Hearst avenues, Berkeley; 510-642-3383

When: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., through Dec. 21.

grounded Sept. 11 when civilian air travel shut down nationwide.

For Sid and Nancy Cohen, buying prints was "an identification," even though they never lived in New York. "It's part of America, part of the United States," said Nancy Cohen. "We were attacked."

Most poignant to the Cohens was a photo of Union Square carpeted with candles, pictures, notes, flowers, stuffed animals and other mementos. They rented an apartment on the square last month for a weeklong visit planned before the attack.

They remembered the poetry readings, skits and other events people staged in the square for sojace; the authorities removing artifacts because of their sheer volume; people returning each night to leave behind more.

Keating spent two days shooting at hospitals and other sites around before he sneaked inside ground zero on the third day, disguised as a construction worker.

"It was almost a personal crisis, not to be able to get at the story," he remembered. His pictures include firefighters on the rim of a crater in the plaza in front of the towers silhouetted against the sky and a dust-covered tea set amid rubble, testimony that "with all the tragedy and death and destruction, beauty still exists."

Many of the photos in the exhibit — expressions of bewilderment; people walking through the canyons of Lower Manhattan, faces shielded against the dust storm; the apocalyptic panoramic shots of a felled skyline silhouetted against the glow of fire — are "so familiar," said another visitor, Jill Posener, "but it doesn't diminish what they're about."

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Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmonter

Friday, December 14, 2001

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B9]



OAKLAND ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS' outgoing president John Holmgren, left, offers incoming president Evelyn Walker some sage advice.

OAR welcomes Walker; bids adieu to Holmgren

Realtors also honor Ramona Chang, Barry Bennett and Ora Lee Brown Foundation
BY BOBBIE REID
 CORRESPONDENT

The Oakland Association of Realtors held its 98th Annual Inaugural Luncheon on Dec. 12, honoring Evelyn Walker, as the new president. The luncheon event was held at the Claremont Resort. Outgoing president John Holmgren and Evelyn Walker hosted the festivities.

Walker is with Coldwell Banker's Oakland/Montclair office. "I am honored to lead and proud to be part of such a fine organization," Walker said.

"The membership continually shows their feelings of responsibility to the community, through their generosity."

I am honored to lead and proud to be president of such a fine organization.

Evelyn Walker, Oakland Association of Realtors' 2002 president

Each year, OAR presents three special awards for outstanding achievement. Recipients included Ramona Chang of Chang & Harde- man, Barry Bennett of Wells & Bennett and Harvey Gabel of Chicago Title.

Chang is the recipient of the Women's Council of Realtors Patty Bennett Award. Bennett received recognition as Realtor of the Year

See REALTORS, Page B2

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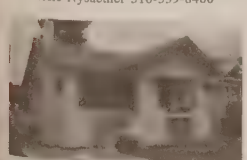
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LIFE AS A CONDO \$259,000
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THROUGH THE GATES AT ROSSMOOR \$249,000
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A look around the real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Learn To Improve
The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. "Creating An Ecological House" is a seminar taught by author/designer Skip Wenz on Saturday, Dec. 15. Join the "Ceramic Tile Installation" workshop on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 15 and 16. For more information on classes and costs call the center. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit the website at bldgeduc.org.

Homeownership Help
Down payment and closing cost assistance is offered through the City of Hayward to first time homebuyers. "There are still affordable homes in Hayward," commented Home Ownership Coordinator **Sam Thompson**. Buyers are required to purchase in Hayward and attend a Homeownership Class. Classes are on a monthly basis, as long as funds are available. To find out more about classes and other requirements call 510-583-4244.

McComack's Guides
McComack's Guides are still available. These relocation/newcomer guide books are more than a directory. The books are loaded with information such as academic rankings for local public schools. SAT scores for local high schools, city profiles and directories of hospitals and private schools. Want to know where to go and what to do? It's in the Guide. Buy 10 for a mere \$9.95. For savings of over 50 percent. For costs and order information call 800-222-3602.

REALTOR.com
If you are interested in buying or selling real estate research reports confirm that REALTOR.com remains the number one website choice of consumers. "REALTOR.com is the most useful place to visit for people with an interest in real estate," said National Association of Realtors President **Richard A. Mendenhall**. The site receives support from hundreds of thousands of Realtors. Check it out at REALTOR.com.

OAR AND ORAL LEE SAY THANKS

The Oakland Association of Realtors wanted to do something to help support the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarship funds for Oakland high school students. A committee, chaired by **Evelyn Walker** of Coldwell Banker was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute.

Real estate agents and brokers were invited to designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. The proceeds of the fund would then be donated to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. Last March, a goal of \$18,000 was set. Through the generosity of the Oakland real estate community that goal was met. At the OAR 2002 Inaugural a check was presented to Oral Lee and four of her students. Donations are still being accepted. To find out more contact Walker at 510-339-4778.

WCR INSTALLS JOHNSON

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter announced the date for their annual installation of officers. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14. Outgoing president **Denise Smith** of Royal Realtors & Loan Services will pass the gavel to **George Johnson** of Ameristar. The ceremony and luncheon will be held at His Lordships, in Berkeley. The oath of office will be administered by the WCR Governor, **Linda Ellen Anderson** of Prudential Realty. For reservations call 510-482-8200. To learn more about WCR, visit their Web site at www.wcr.org.

SERKES CONSULTS WITH NAR

The National Association of Realtors President **Richard Mendenhall** recently called on **Ira Serkes** of Re/Max Bay Area. Serkes was asked for an opinion on the direction NAR should take on technological issues for its members. As a result of this meeting, Serkes will draft a code of ethics for realtors and the Internet. Serkes and his wife **Carol** are Realtors in the Berkeley area. He is the author of "How To Buy A House In California". Serkes is available at 800-887-6668 or www.berkeleyhomes.com.

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Duane Gomer Seminars offer classes for DRE license renewal and broker license testing preparation. For anyone needing license renewal all 45 hours of DRE tests are available in 1/2 day sessions. Courses and test preparation are offered for the brokers license State Exam. To ask about class schedules and costs call 1-800-439-4909.

INTERNET PROFESSIONALS

The National Association of Realtors introduced the new e-PRO, a real estate industry technology certification program for real estate professionals. The e-PRO course was designed by realtors for realtors. The course is presented entirely online and certifies real estate ad brokers as Internet Professionals. Realtors are able to complete their studies at



BOBBIE REID
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their own pace. If you are interested in learning more visit www.eProNAR.com

MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

Attention Mortgage Professionals. Learning more about an industry is as important as being a part of that industry. The California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL) and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMB) strive to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. Both have monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers discussing timely topics. CARL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6:00 p.m. Networking also kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month. To find out more call these organization's hotlines. The CARL Hotline is 925-746-1847. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

Breakfast Club

Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic boulevard. Start time begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call **Pat Johnson** of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925-296-3300.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

■ **Evelyn Walker** of Coldwell Banker in Montclair is the Oakland Association of Realtors 2002 President. To say congrats call Walker at 510-339-4778.

■ Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below.

WHAT'S UP DOC??

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Information deadline is two weeks before the event.

There are three convenient ways to reach me.

- Send an email to bobbieid@dotplanet.com.
- Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.
- Call me at 510-441-7190.

C.A.R.'s 2002 leadership team in place

THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

The California Association of Realtors' Leadership Team for 2002 is now in place. Robert Bailey is the Association's 2002 president, Toby Bradley is president-elect, Jim Hamilton is treasurer and Joel Singer is state secretary.

The officers for 2002 began their official terms at the close of the NAR Convention Nov. 5 and will serve until November 2002.

Robert Bailey has been an active member of the Santa Cruz Association of Realtors since 1975, having served as secretary-treasurer and president of that Association and having been named Realtor of the Year in 1989. At C.A.R., he has chaired numerous committees, including the Legislative, Communications and Editorial Advisory committees. Bailey is an NAR director and has served on the Business Issues and Communications committees. Bailey served as C.A.R.'s president-elect in 2001. He co-owns Bailey Properties Inc. with his brother Paul and lives with his wife and two children in Santa Cruz County.

Toby Bradley has been a Realtor since 1980 and is co-owner and vice president of Home Realty and Investments Inc., an independent, 31-year-old mid-size Santa Barbara real estate firm. She has served on several committees for the Santa Barbara Association of Realtors and was treasurer, vice president and, in 1992, president, of that association. Bradley has been a C.A.R. director since 1985 and an NAR committee member and director since 1991. She also served as C.A.R.'s treasurer in 2000 and 2001. Bradley is active with numerous charities in the Santa Barbara area.

Jim Hamilton manages RE/MAX Execs in Redondo Beach, and has been recognized as Manager of the Year for RE/MAX of California & Hawaii. He is a past president of the South Bay Association of Realtors and has served on numerous C.A.R. committees, including Legislative, Strategic Planning and Finance, and Real Estate Finance as well as the E-Commerce Task

Force. At NAR, he served on several committees including the Business Developmental Finance Committee in Torrance with a children.

C.A.R. Executive Council member, Singer served as C.A.R. president November 1999 and served as C.A.R. President of Public Affairs Department and headed the Real Estate Finance Inc. (REBS, C.A.R. subsidiary and company's real estate corporate secretary). Singer, which provided with electronic real estate, joined C.A.R.

The California Association of Realtors (http://www.carealtors.org) is one of the largest professional organizations in the United States with more than 600,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate.

Holidays a merry time for selling home

BY BEV MUNCER
COLDWELL BANKER

'Tis the season for wrapping presents, baking cookies and putting a house on the market. While tradition used to dictate that home sellers wait until after the holiday decorations are put away, we, the professionals at Coldwell Banker Northern California, advise that the holiday season can be an active time for home sales.

Dispelling a myth

One reason is that there is a considerable demand. It is a myth that homes don't sell during the holidays. During the winter, people looking for homes are those that are serious about buying. There may be less lookers and less homes on the market, but the average sale time remains the same winter or spring — about 50 days (dependent on home price range).

Another reason houses sell quickly during the holiday season is the heightened emotional connection home buyers feel for a home. Tastefully decorated, the holiday season makes a home feel warm and nice. There's a different aroma and a different feel to this time of year.

Gingerbread in the oven, a fire in the fireplace and extra outside lights are all appealing. Prospective buyers make a connection by envisioning themselves at happy gatherings in their new home.

Additionally, the actual home is more visible during the holidays. Most people take special pains to make their homes attractive and tidy for company during the holidays. And shrubs are less full so people are able to see the home better. Generally, if a house shows well

during the winter, which is typically the worst season for outside foliage, buyers have confidence it will shine even more in the summer.

Bev Muncer, Manager of Coldwell Banker Northern California's Oakland/Piedmont office, provides

the above tips. A 21-year veteran, Muncer completed over 20 years of professional in the real estate field. Her office is located at 6137 La Salle Ave. She can be reached at 510-339-4778 or email at muncer2@aol.com.

Long-term interest rates retreat to lower levels

■ One-year ARM remains flat

McLean, VA — In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.84 percent, with an average cost of 0.7 point (1 point equals 1 percent of the loan amount), for the week ending Dec. 7, down from 7.02 percent last week. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage average was 7.54 percent.

The average for the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage this week is 6.30 percent, with an average cost of 0.8 point, down from last week when the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.53 percent. A year ago, the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.19 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 5.21 percent this week,

with an average cost of 0.2 point, almost unchanged from last week's average of 0.22 point.

This time last year, the 30-year ARM averaged 7.21 percent. Mortgage rates were volatile this week, reflecting market overreaction to mixed indicators, which caused Robert Van Order, chief economist at "Financial Research," to predict that this volatility will continue to influence mortgage rates through the end of the year.

"The good news is that consumer spending was strong in October suggesting that the economy will recover sooner than later. Coupled with lower rates, this could mean housing industry will be stable."

Realtors

FROM PAGE B1

and Gabel as Affiliate of the Year.

This year a special presentation was added to the program. OAR created a special committee, chaired by Walker to raise funds for the Oral Lee Brown Foundation.

The foundation provides college scholarships for Oakland high school students. Oral Lee Brown, along with four of her student re-

cipients were presented with a check for \$18,000.

In attendance was Toby Bradley, the 2002 California Association of Realtors president-elect. Bradley conducted the installation ceremony and administered the oath of office.

For more information about the Oakland Association of Realtors call 510-836-3000.

Bobbie Reid is a freelance writer and columnist. She is a California real estate licensee and has been an active member of the real estate industry since 1988.

Real Estate & Home

A Weekly Publication of
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\$198,000 3W Embarcadero 227. Quaint super private unit on second floor with carpet parking. One bedroom with double doors. Walk to Jack London waterfront. Next to channel "2". Donaluci 510-814-4826

\$195,000 1317 Center St. Large Victorian! Contract! 2bd, 2ba, family room, finished basement, great location. Kathy 510-814-4800

\$225,000 930 Pine St. Perfect for live/work! Approx 1400 sq. ft. 14' ceiling, skylites, & roll up door. Needs work. Good location. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$358,000 8048 Greenly Dr. Single level 2 bd, 1ba bungalow! Large eat in kitchen and family room. Large deck and in-ground pool in private yard. Donaluci 510-814-4826

\$629,000 2015 H... View of Bay and city! 4bd, 2ba, finished basement, workshop. Large deep backyard. Russ 510-814-4713

San Leandro

\$299,000 14406 Seagate Dr. Lovely townhome with 2bd, 2ba, all appliances, bar in sunken living room. Ratio near stream. Tere 510-814-4840

\$299,000 42 Dutton Ave. Completely upgraded single level 2bd, 1ba, 1 bath, bungalow! New roof, carpets, washer/dryer, garage. Detached garage and new fences. Tere 510-814-4840

\$329,000 14248 Outrigger Dr. Beautiful tile floors in kitchen & bathrooms. 3bd, 2.5ba, patio and 2-car garage. Near golf course! Tennis courts, pool & spa. Tere 510-814-4840

\$340,000 14265 Seagate Dr. Original owners! Spacious 3bd, 2ba, 1.5bath. Upstairs finished 2-car garage. Tere 510-814-4840

\$439,888 16615 Rolando Ave. Panoramic View of City and Bay! Spacious living room with full 180 degree view! 4bd, 2.5ba. Attached 2-car garage. Nina 510-814-4836

\$455,000 1491 Oriole Ave. Residential Income! Looking for 2bd, 2ba, 1.5bath duplexes? 2bd, 2ba, 1.5bath near shopping & transportation. Linda 510-814-4843

Hayward

\$299,900 20 Trestle Dr. French country charm! 3bd, 2ba, 1.5bath! Remodeled kitchen, 2ba, 1.5bath on main level. Suite Attached garage. Margaret 510-814-4829

Orinda

\$99,000 El Toyonal, Rawland - Initial plans for a 3bd, 2ba home have been preliminary designed. Lot is approx. .75 acres, wooded with views. Sleep up slope in established neighborhood. Russ 510-814-4713

El Cerrito

\$595,000 5490 Barret Avenue. Colonial 4+ bedroom, 2.5 bath home with master bedroom with dressing area and fireplace, study with built-ins, plus an office or den, upstairs, formal dining room, 2-car garage and large yard with gazebo & fruit trees. Close to transportation. Denise 510-814-4871

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RICHMOND VIEW

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2BR, 1BA Spanish style home, almost 1000 sq. ft. needs TLC. Central heating, dining area, nice yard. #01033367. Jerry Garner 510-662-8495.

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED HOME
3+BR, 1BA, updated kitchen, 2 car detached garage, TV room, workshop. Landscaped front and back. #01037397. Leslie 510-222-8340

RICHMOND HIGHLANDS/EL SOBRANO

DRAMATIC COLONIAL ON QUIET CUL-DESAC
125 Mitey Mite. (Open Sun 2-4) 3BR, 3BA gracious w/large family room w/Bruce hardwood floors & pellet fireplace in living room, formal dining room, huge backyard w/enormous new redwood deck w/hot-tub spa, kitchen & baths, master bedroom suite w/new tile, new Berber carpets, 3 car attached garage. Don't miss! Gert 510-662-8469

RICHMOND/NEAR PARKWAY

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1803 Cornflower Ct. (Open Sun 1-4) 3BR, 2.5BA, \$40,000 in upgrades! \$5000 credit to buyer at closing. Look the end of Wildflower, off Atlas Rd. #01040000. www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528

PT. RICHMOND

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Housing affordability improves 3 points in October

THE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
The percentage of households
able to afford a median-priced home increased by three percentage points in October compared to a year ago, according to a report released today by the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.).
The October 2001 Housing Affordability Index stood at 34 percent, up from 31 percent in October 2000, according to C.A.R. The October index increased one percentage point compared to September 2001 when it stood at 33 percent.
Mortgage interest rates fell more than one percentage point in October compared to a year ago, which helped offset an 8.5 percent increase in the median price of a single-family home in California, said C.A.R. President Robert Bailey. Affordability improved significantly in some regions of the state where the median price declined compared to last year.
The greatest year-to-year regional improvement was in Santa Clara, where affordability climbed 12 points to 30 percent, as the me-

dian price decreased from \$527,220 in October 2000 to \$481,000 this year," Bailey said.
C.A.R.'s monthly housing affordability index measures the percentage of households that can afford to purchase a median-priced home in California. C.A.R. also reports housing affordability indexes for regions and selected counties

within the state. The index is the most fundamental measure of housing well-being in the state.
At 16 percent, San Francisco was the least affordable county in the state, followed by Contra Costa at 17 percent. For the Bay Area, affordability was 25 percent. In Southern California, San Diego was the least affordable at 29 percent, fol-

lowed by Orange County at 31 percent. In Los Angeles County, affordability was 36 percent.
The California Association of Realtors (<http://www.car.org>), is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States, with more than 97,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate.

Montclair Better Homes Realty



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3+1/2 BR Home 4+ BDRM/3 BATH Family Room nr Edison School & Park Superb Fernside location
317 D PACIFIC AVE.
2 BDRM/1.5 BATH Co-op at Woodside SOLD \$215,000
1810 MAIN ST.
Freshly Painted 1 BDRM/1 BATH+6 PENDING \$150,000
SAN LEANDRO NEW LISTING
14246 OUTRIGGER DR.
3 BDRM, 2.5 BATH, 2 garages. \$329,000
14406 SEAGATE DR.
2 BDRM PENDING townhome at Marina Seagate \$299,000
14265 SEAGATE DR.
10' Med. PENDING 1.5 BATH townhome \$240,000

Montclair Better Homes Realty

I would like to thank all of my friends and clients for giving me another record-breaking year!

Your support and confidence in me has made all the difference.

I wish you all the joy and happiness of the holiday season with good health, peace and prosperity in 2002.

Best Wishes from Nahid and her team.

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PICTURE A

PICTURE B

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Sales

FROM PAGE B5

1400 Carpentier#341 - \$261,000
14709 Fisk Ct - \$345,000
15205 Hesperian #A - \$257,000
13811 Lark St - \$299,500
1650 Magnolia Ln - \$407,000
928 Maud Av - \$268,000
1386 Montrose Dr - \$445,000
2325 Pacific View Ct - \$502,000
16546 Russel Ct - \$342,000
845 Sybil Av - \$359,000
539 Tiffany Rd - \$279,000
300 West Broadmoor - \$255,000

SAN LORENZO

910 Paseo Grande - \$330,000
1713 Via Barrett - \$360,000
1531 Via Buena Vista - \$310,000
15965 Via Granada - \$185,000
15840 Via Media - \$300,000
15755 Via Nueva - \$339,000
955 William Dr - \$410,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$432,500

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$272,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$361,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$318,250

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST PRICE: \$281,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,050,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$470,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$524,500

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$335,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$466,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$379,813

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$395,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$342,500

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$266,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$349,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$307,750

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2

LOWEST PRICE: \$450,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$485,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$467,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 84
LOWEST PRICE: \$82,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,525,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$354,292

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$2,200,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 29
LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$425,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$255,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$283,759

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST PRICE: \$190,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$502,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$299,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$326,237

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$185,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$410,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$330,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$319,143

Hymer

FROM PAGE B4

If your home appreciates 8 percent a year for 5 years, your property will be worth \$334,556 at the end of the 5th year. By this time, you will have paid down your mortgage balance by over \$10,000.

So you'll have about \$145,000 in equity. If you sell your home, you'll have to pay selling costs, but should still net \$130,000 to \$135,000 which can be used as a down payment on your next home.

FIRST-TIME HOMEOWNER TIP: If you refinance to pull cash out of your home, you could undermine your equity position.

Cash-out mortgages have become popular with American

homeowners. They work like this. The value of your home goes up. Although it might seem like easy money, there are risks inherent in cash-out mortgages. The cash from your refinance is usually spent rather than saved. And, if home values drop you could end up owing your lender more than your home is worth.

homeowners. They work like this. The value of your home goes up.

So a lender...
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you...
all...
this...
THE CLOSING...
might...
there...
fast...
you...
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your...
ues...
drop...
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sun-filled spacious Crocker home. Completely renovated from top to bottom. Wonderful opportunity in great neighborhood! Great for extended family!

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- 4+ bd/4 ba, including 2 master suites
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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Seaside flat in 2-unit building... \$110,000

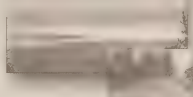
New Listing!
 756 Balra Drive, El Cerrito
 \$439,000
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 \$224,000
 Open Sun 12/16 2-4:30 pm



Wonderful View Lot!
 1505 Madera, El Cerrito
 \$325,000

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Artist Melanie Hofmann: Digital Art
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1323 - 82nd AVE. GREAT RENTAL LOCATION! 2 updated units, each with 2 bedrooms. \$255,000. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

5448 FOOTHILL BLVD. NEWLY PAINTED & CARPETED. Great floor plan zoned C-30. Huge family sized kitchen, solid quiet home with lovely backyard for picnics. \$239,500. Call Ruth Masonick, for appointment. 510-748-1101.

3261 BONA ST. LOCATED ON A CUTE LITTLE STREET. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Why rent when you can own? \$210,000. Call Kelko McDonald, 510-522-4449, Honesty & Diligence.

2901 - 75th AVE. NOW \$427,000! Stately Tudor on a street of Tudors. Spacious 4 bedroom home. Quiet & charming with approx. 3000 sq ft & some view. Mary Ann Herber, 1-800-523-9424.

RICHMOND

2215 SEA SHELL DR. MARINA BAY! Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath condo at Marina Bay with hardwood floors, new paint. \$355,000. Michael Studebaker, 510-748-1129.

ALBANY

555 PIERCE ST. 1320. VIEW OF BAY & HILL FROM THIS CORNER UNIT. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, new floor. \$240,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

We speak Mandarin, Cantonese and English

CASTRO VALLEY

16725 SELBY DR. HIGH ON A HILL 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1550 sq ft new flooring, new patio, hot tub, leveling Great schools, easy access to 580, great commuter home \$410,000 Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805

18313 PEPPER ST. ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC. Great family home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths in quiet neighborhood Family room, hobby room, enclosed yard Patio with big deck. \$475,000. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805

CONCORD

1036 OAK GROVE RD. #114. NICE UPPER UNIT IN A GREAT LOCATION. Waterways, fountain, swimming pool & spa 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit. Good freeway access. \$139,500. David McIntyre, 510-748-1111

DANVILLE

1055 SAN RAMON VALLEY BLVD. INVESTORS! SELLERS MAY RENT BACK. Convenient Danville location 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse with wood floors down & carpets upstairs. \$275,000 Call Ruth Masonick, 510-748-1101

ORINDA

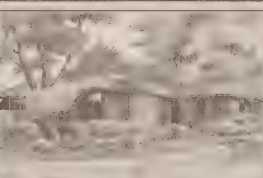
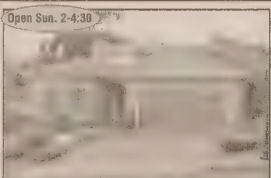
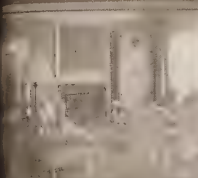
320 TAHOS RD. GREAT FLOOR PLAN! All 3 bedrooms on main level, large family room, full bath & plus room at lower level. 3 car garage & close to freeway access \$648,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

Moon Tam 747-1620
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50 SHERIDAN, UPPER ROCKRIDGE 3BR/2BA! \$689,000
 Mediterranean built in 1994. Bay View, all level, HWF, FP, newer paint in/out, new garage door.
 Nancy Dickey. 510-339-4700

HILLCREST HIGHLANDS 4+BR/3BA \$799,000
 Jingle our bell... and we'll show you this stunning, almost level Contemporary. Beautiful, appx. 1/3 acre lot, striking 2-wing floorplan! The perfect present!
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MONTCLAIR/PIEDMONT SIDE \$599,000
 Ideal location! Great space, outlook & ambiance. Wooded Bay views. One family since '54. Remodel to taste. Sound home, 3BR/2.5BA.
 Rita Zwerdling 510-486-1495

BERKELEY HILLS CLASSIC \$649,000
 3BR/2BA, enchanting old world detail w/modern kitch. & mstr. bath, formal LR & DR, fireplace, attached gar., patio, terraced garden.
 Barbara Marienthal 510-486-1495

OPEN SUNDAY

13848 Campus, Oakland/Ridgemont.....4BR/2.5BA.....\$998,000.....SUN 2-4
 Complete in Y2K, impeccable condition. Lot lg. enough for pool.
 Sarah Shankman.....510-486-1495

6039 Glenarms, Montclair.....5BR/3BA.....\$789,000.....SUN 2-5
 Views! Space! Yard! A great find in desirable Montclair. Move right in this lovely 1993 home.
 Ellen Lancaster.....510-339-4700

5777 Harbor Drive, Oakland.....3BR/2.5BA.....\$599,000.....SUN 2-4
 Spacious, filtered Bay view, mstr. BR, FP, hrdwd. flr.
 Bobbie Giarratana.....510-486-1495

7028 Homewood, Montclair.....2+BR/1BA.....\$295,000.....SUN 1-4:30
 Large lot w/level front & back yards, big deck, wooded view, plus rooms w/separate entrance.
 Victor Ratto.....510-339-4700

1405 Hellings Avenue, Richmond. 2BR/1BA.....\$240,000.....SUN 2-4:30
 5K lot, updated bath w/tile everything, newer roof, newer paint in/out, close to 80, 580, San R bridge.
 Josh Whitmer.....510-486-1495

BY APPOINTMENT

A Berkeley Beauty.....\$1,250,000
 5BR/3BA, exceptional 20's home restored & remodeled in '98.
 Kim and Barbra Marienthal.....510-486-1495

Versatile Live/work Loft.....\$575,000
 2BR/2BA, tiled kitch., bath & spa. High ceilings, 2 distinct spaces, 2700+ sq. ft., rooftop deck.
 Kim Marienthal.....510-486-1495

Richmond-Hilltop.....\$255,000
 3BR/2BA, comfortable, on the corner lot, fireplace.
 Barbara Marienthal.....510-486-1495

BY APPOINTMENT

Montclair.....\$849,000
 Romantic 2BR/1.5BA situated on large lot w/spectacular view, pool, wine closet & guest house. Small & intimate, yet smashing.
 Donna Conroy.....510-339-4700

Montclair.....\$675,000
 4BR/3BA. Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage.
 Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen.....510-339-4700

Joaquin Miller.....\$539,000
 4+BR/2.5BA. Sunny, spacious Traditional. Great floorplan, level rear yard, convenient cul-de-sac location close to parks & shopping.
 Darcy Diamantine.....510-339-4700

Moraga.....\$489,000
 3BR/2.5BA. Mediterranean-style, spacious townhome only 15-years-old. Great floorplan, large eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, FP, skylights.
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Oakland 4-Plex.....\$395,000
 Mellow 4-plex on approx. 7500 sq. ft. lot, nice area.
 Don Coelho.....510-339-4700

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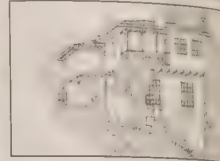
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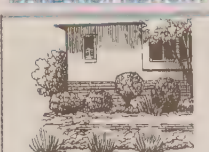
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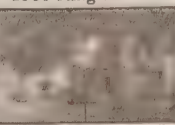
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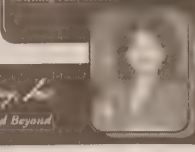
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SPORTS

• Friday, December 14, 2001 •

Section C

Golf Youth golf camp in Berkeley [C2]

Arts "A Christmas Memory" is a change of pace [C3]



RON SALSIG
Range Rat

Galbraith: dredging up the future

The Galbraith Golf Course has begun its resurrection. Out of the depths of the estuary created by dredge spoils from the estuary, a new golf course is rising. Five holes of the new Johnny Miller design have been shaped, with cart paths, and the place is slowly beginning to look habitable for golf. The course is on schedule for completion by the fall of next year.

Galbraith was closed down in 1985 by the Port of Oakland when the land could be used to contaminate dredgings from the estuary. The Port back then had landed some federal money to deepen the estuary with new and bigger ships, but they had a problem finding a place to dispose of the dredgings. Much to the dismay of principal golfers, the Port finally decided to close Galbraith and place the spoils there.

The Port promised to build a new golf course in seven years and it looks like they will have to their word. But that does not mean that there were no problems along the way. First, there was a problem with the sand. The sand that was to be used as a base for the new golf course was too fine — water could not run through it. New, coarser sand was trucked in at quite a cost, not all of which was paid by the Port.

Not all of the fine sand was removed at Galbraith. To counter the drainage problem, drainage drains were installed every 25 feet. Normally, drains are put in every 50 feet on a golf course. The additional cost for this the new drainage will be around \$20,000. Then there was a problem with the water. Reclaimed wa-

See SALSIG, Page C2



THE COUGARS SURROUNDED Alameda's Julian Carrington during a nonleague game. Playing in Albany on Dec. 11, the Hornets stopped the Cougars 69-34.

Baby, it's cold inside

Hornets' 22-0 run stops Cougars

By Scott Strain
STAFF WRITER

Alameda boys basketball coach Ed Ruiz came out after his team's game against Albany Tuesday night and remarked, "This is a nice place. They did a good job here. This is what Alameda (the gym) should look like."

The Hornets played in Albany High's new athletic facility, part of the new \$30 million Albany High School that is camped on the corner of Thousand Oaks and Key Route. The city has every right to be proud of the new school.

Funny thing is, the Hornets seemed to be more at home here than the host Cougars. Alameda simply overwhelmed Albany 69-34 in a game that was essentially over by halftime, when the Hornets (4-2) dashed off a 22-0 run to break a 12-12 tie early in the second quarter. The 22-2 spread in the period gave Alameda a 34-12 halftime lead. Nobody in attendance will remember much about the second half.

"We just got whooped," Albany coach Doug Kagawa said. "We have a very young team — no seniors and they (Alameda) play a very physical game. We're not build like that. They took us out of the game early."

A theory was floated past the veteran coach that perhaps his team, being relatively new to the gym (only the third game), does not feel comfortable yet in its new surroundings. Kagawa wasn't buying it.

"We have some good shooters on this team," he said. "We just weren't hitting and it really fell

apart in the second quarter."

After a first quarter that had Alameda turning the ball over seven times (including three in the first minute of play), Albany's Charles Holder hit a short jumper seconds into the second period to forge a 12-12 tie. Little did the Cougars (2-4) know that at that point Holder's basket would be it for the period.

The Hornets started pressuring the ball a little bit and Albany's ball-handling ability, which had resulted in just three turnovers in the first quarter, went south in the second period. Albany turned the ball over nine times in the period. And, with the Hornets' taller players getting some room inside, they got some second-chance baskets off of offensive rebounds. Jon Burkard (six points) had a couple of drives down the middle and Chris Kincey punctuated an 11-0 run with a slam that gave Alameda a 23-12 lead.

Julian Carrington gave Alameda a 32-12 lead with 2:01

left in the half, but the Cougars had a chance to get back on the board when Eddie Izumizaki was fouled and was awarded two free throws. He missed both of them and the Hornets raced into the locker room with that 22-point lead.

It wasn't that Alameda was playing great basketball at this point; it was that Albany just went into a cool-shooting funk that was so bad that even the few offensive rebound opportunities the Cougars got tanked. Alameda was simply the recipient of Albany's largesse.

Six players scored for Alameda in the period, with Burkard's six points leading the way. Kincey had five.

"I thought it would just be a matter of time before our pressure got to them," Ruiz said. "It happened in the second quarter."

Albany's Matt Hansen scored the first basket of the game, but Alex Fleming and Brian Brooks

See COUGERS, Page C2

Too little, too late

Jackets come up short against St. Joe; Berkeley girls win Santos consolation

By Chace Bryson
STAFF WRITER

CONCORD — Trailing by seven points after three quarters, the Berkeley High School boys' basketball team turned up the defensive pressure.

Unfortunately for the Yellow Jackets, so did their opponent St. Joseph. The Pilots held Berkeley to just four points in the fourth period and held on for a 52-45 victory in the first round of the Chris Vontoure Spartan Classic Tournament at De La Salle.

With a basket by Damien Burns with 27.2 seconds left, the Yellow Jackets closed the score to 48-45. St. Joseph was able to break the Berkeley press and score on a wide-open layup to put the game out of reach.

"We played really hard tonight," Burns said. "I think what hurt us was that we played into their pace of the game and not ours. Our turnovers just killed us and we could finish."

Burns finished as the Yellow Jackets' leading scorer with 12 points and Rodney Jones chipped in nine points.

The Pilots had 13 players get into the scoring column and were led by senior guard Eric Wright. Wright scored 12 and forward Cameron Quick put up eight points.

St. Mary's 58, Serra 52

The Panthers (3-1) claimed the consolation title at the Chris Vontoure Classic basketball tournament at De La Salle High School in Concord last weekend, stopping Serra of San Mateo.

Knotted after three quarters of play, the Panthers (3-1) outscored Serra 15-9 in the final eight minutes to win the game.

The Panthers, who won last year's Division IV state crown, have moved up to Division I for the 2001-2002 campaign. They opened the Vontoure by dropping their opener to Oakland, then

See HOOPS, Page C2

Prep girls' soccer preview

ACCAL race up in the air

Berkeley favored, but several teams closing the gap

By Joe Stiglich
STAFF WRITER

The popular pick for this season's ACCAL race is the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League girls' soccer champion, Berkeley High School. Yellow Jackets coach Suzanne Borton appreciates the gesture, but she knows her team has its work cut out for it in order to reclaim the ACCAL crown.

Berkeley lost some key players from last year's North Coast quarterfinal team, so the fight for the title should be a wide-open race.

Adding to the intrigue is the inclusion of Hercules High School, which is in its first season of varsity soccer and drew some of its players from its ACCAL rivals.

"All the teams in our league are pretty equal," said Pinole Valley coach Chuck Thompson. "None could beat anyone."

Berkeley finished 10-2 to win last season, but the Yellow Jackets must replace all three of their center midfielders from last year. All three who were included, including ACCAL MVP Esther Schmidt, are playing at four-year colleges now.

"Some players are going to have to step into their shoes," Sillett said.

The Yellow Jackets return nine players, including junior forward Annie Borton, who scored 10 goals and was a first-team all-leaguer last year.

Joining Borton on the offensive attack is sophomore Maura Fitzgerald, who had five goals and five assists as a freshman. Returning starting goalkeeper Sara Corrigan-Gibbs improved last year during her sophomore season and has looked good so far in four nonleague games.

Helping fill the void at center midfielder will be senior Veronica Seales and freshman Bea Wallach.

Other key contributors this season will be freshman fullback Becca Williams and junior sweeper Mei-Lin Ha.

"I imagine Alameda and El Cerrito will have strong teams again," Sillett said. "Richmond is up and coming. I expect them to be tough again this year."

Alameda finished 9-1-2 last season, one point behind Berkeley in the standings, and graduated first-team all-leaguer Sarah Walker.

El Cerrito has been to the NCS playoffs four times in the last nine years Robert Sackey has been coach.

The Gauchos, however have

made it past the first round only once, so advancing deeper in the playoffs is Sackey's goal.

The Gauchos' biggest loss to graduation was scoring sensation Katie Eames, who now is on a full scholarship to Navy.

Her sister, Kristen, is a senior and will take over a leadership role, according to Sackey. Goalkeeper Jenna Brace and Julianna Dragon both are four-year varsity players who will have to step up big for El Cerrito.

Sackey says defense will be the strength of his team. The Gauchos were scored on only twice in their first four preseason games.

"I think there's still room for improvement," Sackey said.

First-year Pinole Valley coach Thompson will rely on a veteran team with 14 seniors.

"We've actually played well together as a team (during the preseason)," Thompson said. "We have a lot of returning players and new players, too. They've meshed real well together."

Leading the Spartans this season will be returning first-team all-league halfback Shannon Elliot. Sophomore Dana Weeks was second-team all-league at forward and should provide scoring punch this season as well.

Fellow striker Natalie Thompson

See GIRLS, Page C2

Prep boys' soccer preview

Youth is key to ACCAL

Jackets, Oilers expected to battle for soccer title

By Phil Jensen
TIMES STAFF

The operative word for the boys' soccer teams in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League is "young".

High school varsity experience is hard to find in the ACCAL this season, which means that it could be a wide-open race this year. Richmond and Berkeley, like last year, still are considered favorites, but both teams had a lot of seniors on last year's squads.

League play opens Tuesday with De Anza at defending champion Richmond, Encinal at Alameda, El Cerrito at Pinole Valley, and Berkeley at Hercules.

"I figure the two teams that will be dominant will be Berkeley and Richmond," El Cerrito coach Fred Gonzalez said. "(But) all the teams are young. (The league race) should be pretty wide open."

Richmond won the ACCAL title last year by the slimmest of margins. It appeared that Richmond and Berkeley would share the title after Richmond was upset 1-0 by Pinole Valley on Feb. 8. But the Spartans inadvertently

used an academically ineligible player in the win, giving Richmond the ACCAL title outright.

The Oilers have started this season with a 3-0-1 record, including wins over James Logan, Bishop O'Dowd and Kennedy. Richmond has eight players from different age groups who were members of state teams during the club season.

"This year, I see as a year to give them more experience," said Richmond coach Rene Siles about his team. "Our goal is to win the league and see what's after that."

Senior midfielder Rodolfo Garcia, a returning all-league pick, leads the Oilers' offense. Forwards Fernando Martinez and Jonathan Magdaleno also add scoring punch for Richmond.

But the Oilers also have a returning all-leaguer in sophomore defender Calvin Velado. Francisco Vazquez also returns at goalkeeper.

Berkeley, which started this season 1-1, also has plenty of new faces. The Yellow Jackets do have leadership in the middle line with midfielders Kamani Hill, Chris Davis and Liam Reilly all returning. Davis and Reilly were first and second-team all-league picks last season, while Hill finished third in the league scoring race as a sophomore with 28 points (12 goals, four assists)."

"I think it is correct to say Richmond and Berkeley," said Berkeley coach Janu Juarez about the favorites for the league title. "We certainly want to make a run for it."

Alameda has started this season 3-2, but both losses were 1-0. Goalkeeper Brian Thomas is supported by senior Colin Jackson, a stopper who was an honorable mention all-league goalkeeper last season. Alameda's brand-new defense also includes junior Anesh Rana at sweeper.

De Anza has six returning starters from last year's squad and a new coach, Placido Matta. The Dons started the season 2-0 and have second-team all-league sweeper Martin Diaz and honorable mention all-league goalkeeper Victor Piceno returning.

El Cerrito started slowly this season with a 1-3 record and only four goals in those four games. Second team all-league sweeper Ryan DeLaRosa has helped the team defensively, while forward Evan Horowitz and halfbacks Teddy Firestone and Michael Gonzalez will be counted on to lead the team offensively. Gonzalez was an honorable mention all-league selection last season as a freshman.

The most improved team in the league might be Encinal. The

See BOYS, Page C2

Green Business MON-FRI 8 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Arts



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

NBC ready to channel the South Bay

4 GOES INTO 11 ON 1-1: I've been getting e-mail from South Bay readers who don't have cable and who also can't pick up Channel 11's distant signal from San Jose. KNTV's signal is indeed weak and spotty in many areas of the South Bay hills, and when KNTV becomes the NBC affiliate (taking the designation away from KRON) less than three weeks from now, some viewers here will be totally NBC-impaired.

Then again, although they'll lose NBC, the upside is that these local viewers won't get Channel 11's weak newscasts, either. But here's a (possibly) helpful technical hint: I've been watching KNTV for five years without cable, and I use a simple \$29 Radio Shack signal booster to pull in KNTV beautifully. (An engineer at KTVU gave me the idea.) It might be worth a try for those uncabled viewers who want "The West Wing" and "Frasier" after Jan. 1, although, as the lawyers say, I make no warranties or representations.

It's clear that KNTV's news product is thin indeed. Forget the station's seemingly faceless and generic-looking anchors. (O.K., we know Terilyn Huff, Channel 11's reporting staff seems to have an average age of about 23, and watching KNTV's news, you'll appreciate how good KRON's is by comparison.) This whole affair of KRON losing NBC is a sad case of glacial greed and the public be damned. Looking at KRON's last-released and NBC-free programming schedule is testament to a once-great station. I just hope you like digitized filler like "Judge Joe Brown" and "Eliminate Delano."

One South Bay weekly is not with a story this week claiming the deal may be delayed, even at this late date. The stock of Granite Broadcasting, KNTV's owner, is under \$2 a share, and the company is reportedly short of cash to pay NBC its first-ever affiliation fee. (Granite's stock is selling this week for under \$2 a share on Nasdaq, which means it could be de-listed.)

And I keep hearing reports that NBC is still trying to buy KRON and KNTV. Both Cox (KTVU, KICU) and Viacom (KPIX, KBHK) already own two TV stations here. Rumors are widespread that some heavy-duty hagglers are going on between NBC and KRON power Young Broadcasting. But even if NBC does pull off a last-minute deal, it's likely we'll be stuck with KNTV at least for a few months.

"The rumors of NBC buying KRON are absolutely untrue," KNTV publicist Erika Taylor told me flatly this week. "And they may have talked with KNTV, but NBC is building solid links behind KNTV right now, and on Jan. 1, we'll be NBC-3." Taylor said she's getting a toll-free number for both cabled and non-cabled viewers who have reception/channel questions.

Soundbards are already up in the South Bay to alert viewers of the NBC switch, and Taylor says a saturation radio ad campaign is planned next month.

In January, you can always switch to KRON, which is planning a 9 p.m. newscast starting in January, for local news.

KNTV, by the way, will keep Tom Brokaw and "NBC Nightly" at 5:30 p.m. And if you have an antenna, can't get KNTV, and want NBC, there are still two distant affiliates you might pick up — Channel 8 (KSBW) out of Salinas, and the more powerful Channel 3 (KARA) out of "Sacramento."

RADIO FIXTURE A COST-CUTTING VICTIM, BUT HAPPY: "Redmond's" Mike Cleary, a popular fixture on the local radio scene for some 30 years (mostly with Frank Dill morning show on KNBR), will do his last shift at KABL Dec. 31, the result of owner-conglomerate

See MANN, Page C5



TOM CRUISE'S life is turned upside down when he spurns his on-again/off-again lover (Cameron Diaz) in "Vanilla Sky," Cameron Crowe's remake of Alejandro Amenabar's "Open Your Eyes."

'Vanilla' nothing to crow about

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

In "Vanilla Sky," scene for scene, Cameron Crowe replicates Spanish director Alejandro Amenabar's 1997 movie "Abre Los Ojos" (Open Your Eyes). He's dressed it up with snazzy American actors, a vibrant New York setting and fleshed out the ambiguities in Amenabar's plot, so that everything, including the movie's ending and intriguing underlying morality, is more obvious.

But this is a copy, not a "re-imagining" (a wimpy phrase that screams "poor excuse") and as such, there's something deeply aggravating about it, even though it's artful and mostly well-acted.

If you've seen Amenabar's ("The Others") intriguing but slightly silly original already — and not many people have, although it is available on video —

REVIEW

■ WHAT: "Vanilla Sky"
■ STARRING: Tom Cruise, Penelope Cruz, Cameron Diaz, Jason Lee, Kurt Russell, Tilda Swinton, Noah Taylor
■ RATING: R (sexuality and strong language)
■ RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, 16 minutes
■ WHERE: Opens today at area theaters
■ GRADE: C

you're almost doomed to feel deflated by "Vanilla Sky." It's like seeing the original street fashion that inspired some Chanel design side by side with the designer version; the Chanel can't help seeming pathetic, even though it's technically better-looking, because creatively, it's a sham.

Cameron Crowe should not be wasting his time by remaking someone else's perfectly good picture. You want more from Crowe; you want more *for* him.

Paying the piper

"Vanilla Sky" is a cautionary tale about casual sex and the unhappy power of a woman scorned, and as such, it may touch off the same kind of public debate about sexuality that "Fatal Attraction" did. But unlike the Michael Douglas character in that movie, "Vanilla Sky" dashing David Aames (Tom Cruise) has not made simply one mistake with a woman, but a lifelong series of them. We meet him just as he's about to get his come-uppance from an unstable girl who represents revenge for every heartless move he's ever made.

Here's where the story differs sharply from "Fatal Attraction":

This movie makes it clear that it is on the woman's side (not the wacko's side necessarily, but rather the side of womankind).

It's easy to see why Cruise was drawn to this part; as an actor, he loves to be redeemed, and there's never been a character more ripe for redemption than the despicable David (except perhaps his spiritual cousin Jerry Maguire). A publishing executive who runs his late father's magazine empire by showing up to wink and smile at his employees, Aames is the original useless rich guy. He wakes up every day, plucks out any stray gray hairs and admires his own reflection.

He's a shameless playboy, flatterer and beauties just enough to keep them hanging on for the next tidbit of attention. He's already got a gorgeous, insatiable

See VANILLA, Page C5

Some holiday offerings for the non-traditionalist

There's nothing wrong, understand, with dancing bears, cracking nuts, toys that come to larger-than-life size, and sour-pussed old geezers who have a change of a heart for the better. (Just covering my tracks, see, with the traditionalists.) But if you're looking for a change of pace in holiday entertainment, read on.

Mick Berry and Pat Parker, solid actors on the local theater scene, are opening an enactment of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" tomorrow night at California Conservatory Theatre in San Leandro. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

This is a childhood memoir centered on the author's early years with a family of distant relatives in rural Alabama. It pays affectionate tribute to an eccentric old-maid cousin by the name of Miss Sook Faulk,

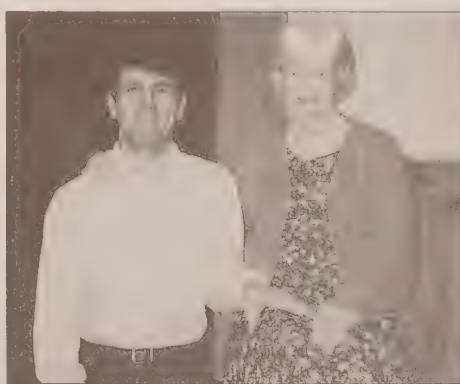


JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

who became his best friend.

In "A Christmas Memory," Miss Sook, played by Parker, along with Buddy (the narrator, played by Berry) and their dog, Queenie, celebrate the Yuletide in the 1930s. Those were tough times, but the heartwarming telling of the tale is distinguished by Capote's delicate interplay of childhood sensibility and recollective vision. He regarded the story as among his best works of short fiction.

Parker will next be seen closer to home in "I Hate Ham-



MICK BERRY and Pat Parker in Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory."

let," opening in January at El Cerrito's Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

As a preface to the conservatory evening, Berry will read "One Christmas," another

Capote holiday story. In this poignant reminiscence, six-year-old Buddy visits his estranged father in New Orleans

See TUCKER, Page C5

ARTS BEAT

Still time to catch Christmas Revels

Only five performances remain of the Christmas Revels: Friday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. The Revels is a musical and theatrical celebration of the Winter Solstice, this year featuring Celtic music, dance and storytelling.

Performances, featuring Patrick Ball, Shay Black, Cheryl Ann Fulton, Shira Kammen, Kevin Carr, Pamela Sway, Eileen Mize, and the McBride Irish Dancers, are at Oakland's Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside Drive in Oakland.

Details: 510-893-9853 or www.cairevels.org

Kwanzaa Harvest Celebration

Children in Flight's ninth annual Kwanzaa Harvest Celebration is from noon-2:30 p.m. next Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Alice Arts Center, 1428 Alice St. in Oakland.

The celebration is free and open to everyone and marks the culmination of a year of dedication to the principle that practice makes perfect. Children in Flight students, part of the Jazz in Flight program, will demonstrate their personal and communal accomplishments. And to keep with the event's tradition, they will be raffling great prizes.

Children in Flight classes are offered to children without charge every Saturday (except for major holidays) from noon to

2:15 p.m. at the Alice Arts Center. The facility is wheelchair accessible and we welcome students with disabilities.

For general information: www.jazzinflight.org

'A Celtic Peace' celebration

Celebrate the Winter Solstice and the Christmas season with "A Celtic Peace," an evening of Irish music and dance with Todd Denman and friends at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 23, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. in Berkeley. This fun, warm-hearted musical program is dedicated to world peace and appropriate for the entire family.

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, available at the door.

Details: www.juliamorgan.org or call 510-845-8542

'Year End Kiss Off' at Morgan Center

The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., hosts "Big Fat Year End Kiss Off" an evening of standup political comedy and improvisational sketches encapsulating the events of the year 2001 at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 26.

The ninth annual show will feature the talents of Will Durst, Johnny Steele, Debi Durst, Michael Bassier, Steven Kravitz and other players.

All tickets are \$17. Tickets: 925-798-1300.

For details on the event call 510-845-8542 or check online at www.juliamorgan.org.

EVENTS

Outdoors

Dunsmuir House And Gardens Historic Estate — Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 40-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Christmas at Dunsmuir," closing Dec. 16. This holiday event includes tours of the Mansion, decorated in Victorian Christmas style, holiday teas, children's teas and luncheons, carolers, horse-drawn carriages for hire, craft booths, children's activities, and visits from Father Christmas. Tickets are sold by dates and are valid only on that date. Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mansion Tours, Friday through Sunday, 11:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tours are 45 minutes long and begin every 15 minutes. Reservations required. Admission and Mansion Tour: \$10 general; \$9 seniors; \$6 youths age 6 to 13. Luncheon Buffet in the Garden Pavilion, Friday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$16 per person.

Holiday Teas in the Dinkelspiel House, Friday, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$18 per person. **Holiday Teas in the Dinkelspiel House**, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. \$18 per person.

GROUND — The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public, Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, (925) 275-9490 or (510) 615-5555 or www.dunsmuir.org

Oakland Zoo — African Savanna, ongoing. This zoo territory consists of two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits. See the meerkat family, hyenas, green monkeys and even a savanna monitor.

Visit the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) to see African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world who live in this Oakland hills park. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop.

"Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," is a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for two adult African lions and four young lions.

"Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna. A the Kikuyu Hut.

"Sun Bear Exhibit," See the state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears. The bears' home is designed to challenge the bears mentally as well as physically, forcing them to forage for food as much as they would do in the wild. The naturalistic habitat is over an acre in size and includes multiple pits for exploration, climbing structures, nesting structures, a large pond and rooting machines.

The Siamese Island Exhibit, ongoing. The island is a state-of-the-art, barrier-free exhibit that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

"Zoolights," through Jan. 5. The month-long display of spectacular holiday lights. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. \$6.50 general; \$4.50 seniors and children.

\$6.50 general; \$3.50 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland, (510) 632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

The USS Potomac — The 165-foot presidential yacht USS Potomac, called the "Floating White House" when it was refurbished at the beginning of World War II for use by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has been restored to its World War II splendor.

Dockside Tours, ongoing. Tours of the Potomac at the dock are approximately 45 minutes. Tours canceled when weather is bad and the decks are too slippery to be safe; call ahead if the weather is rainy. Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 3:15 p.m. \$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 youths age 6 to 17; free children under age 6; \$5 family rate for two adults and children.

USS Potomac, FDR Pier, Foot of Jack Street, northwest end of Clay Landon Square, Oakland. Potomac Visitor Center: 840 Waver St., Oakland, (510) 539-8256 or (510) 627-1215.

Redwood Regional Park — "Who's Out There," Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help the park's owl

See EVENTS, Page C7

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday December 14

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Central Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
•The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 7, 9, 30
•Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy (Not Rated) 7, 15, 9, 45

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-843-3456
•Amelle (R) 6, 30, 9, 30
•Bread and Tulips (PG-13) 7, 9, 45

California Theatre

2113 Kitebridge St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
 •Closed for renovation

Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-276-5684
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12, 15, 2, 45, 5, 15, 8, 10, 20
•Black Knight 12:55, 3:20, 5:25, 7:55, 10, 10
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:45, 12:20, 1:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:50, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:40, 10:25
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7, 30
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:50, 2, 4, 15, 6:55, 9, 15
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:30, 12:10, 12:45, 1:25, 2:15, 2:55, 3:25, 4:20, 4:55, 5:30, 6:25, 7, 7:40, 8:30, 9:10, 9:50, 10:35
•Ocean's Eleven 11:40, 12:40, 1:40, 2:20, 3:15, 4:10, 5, 5:05, 6:50, 7:50, 8:40, 9:45, 10:30
•Shallow Hal 11:55, 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55
•Spy Game (R) 1:05, 4, 10
•Vanilla Sky (R) 12:135, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30, 9, 10:30

Century 25 Union City at Union Landing

32100 Alvarado Blvd. Union City 510-487-9533
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12, 10, 12:05
•Black Knight 12:20, 7:50, 10:05, 10:45
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:40, 12:20, 1, 1:35, 2:20, 3:05, 3:35, 4:20, 5, 5:40, 6:25, 7, 7:45, 8:15, 9, 9:40, 10:20, 11:05, 11:35
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:30
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:20, 12:25, 1:45, 2:45, 4:05, 5:05, 6:55, 9:15, 11:35
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:15, 11:45, 12:15, 12:45, 1:25, 2, 2:30, 3, 3:40, 4:15, 4:50, 5:25, 6, 6:35, 7:10, 7:40, 8:25, 9, 9:30, 10, 10:35, 11:10, 11:45, 12:10
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:30, 12, 12:30, 1:05, 1:40, 2:15, 2:40, 3:20, 3:55, 4:25, 4:55, 5:30, 6:40, 7:05, 7:35, 8:05, 8:40, 9:20, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45, 11:20, 11:55, 12:10
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5, 9:55
•Spy Game (R) 1:10, 4, 7, 9, 55
•Vanilla Sky (R) 11:10, 11:55, 12:35, 1, 20, 2:15, 2:55, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 5:55, 8:50, 7:30, 8:20, 9:05, 9:50, 10:35, 11:20, 12

Chabot Cinema

2853 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2555
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:30, 4:30, 8

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
•Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1, 7:30
•The Living Sea (Not Rated) 3:30, 3:30, 8:30
•To Be An Astronaut (Not Rated) 10:30

Elmwood 3

2965 College Ave., Berkeley 510-849-0530
•The Closet (R) 7:45
•Focus (PG-13) 5, 7:10, 9:20
•Iron Monkey (PG-13) 9:15
•Serendipity (PG-13) 5:15, 7:15
•Tape (R) 6, 9:30

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
•American Movie (Not Rated) 9:35
•Straight Story (Not Rated) 7:30

Renaissance Grand Lake Theatre

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
•Behind Enemy Lines 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 9:35
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12:30, 3:45, 7
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:15
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 12, 2, 4, 15, 8:15
•Spy Game (R) 12:15, 3, 6:30, 9:15

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05
•Black Knight (PG-13) 11, 1:25, 4, 7:25, 10
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12, 12:45, 3:30, 4:05, 7:10, 10:25
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 10:55, 1:20, 3:40, 6, 6:20, 10:40
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 10:50, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:45
•Vanilla Sky (R) 10:45, 12:30, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 7:05, 7:45, 10, 10:45

Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-785-8000
•Domestic Disturbance (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (G) 12:30, 1, 4, 5, 7:40, 9:30
•Heist (R) 12, 2:20, 4:50, 7:45, 10
•Life As a House (R) 12:40, 4:10, 7, 9:50
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:40, 12:10, 2, 2:30, 4:40, 5, 7:20, 9:40
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:50, 12:20, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 5, 7, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10
•Out Cold (PG-13) 8, 10:10

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 7:10, 9:20
•Heist (R) 7
•Spide & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation (Not Rated) 9:15

Piedmont Theatre

4188 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456
•Amelle (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 30
•The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
•The Affair of the Necklace (R) 1:25, 6:30
•The Business of Strangers (R) 1:40, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:55
•The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition (G) 2:05, 4:30, 6:50
•Fat Girl (Not Rated) 1:35, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45,

9:50
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 1:30, 3:45, 6, 8, 15
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:10, 2, 3:40, 4:40, 6:15, 7:25, 8:50, 10
•Sideways of New York (R) 9:15
•Tuvalu (Not Rated) 1, 3, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
•Vanilla Sky (R) 1:05, 2:10, 4, 5:10, 6:55, 8:10, 9:45
•Waking Life (R) 10:10, 9:10

United Artists Berkeley

2274 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-843-1487
•Black Knight (PG-13) 11:15, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11, 1:30, 2:30, 5, 5:55, 8:15, 9:30
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:25, 7, 9:45
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 9:45
•Spy Game (R) 12, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30
•Training Day (R) 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:35

United Artists Emery Bay 10

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0107
•Black Knight (PG-13) 11, 1:50, 4:50, 9:50
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12, 3:30, 7, 10:30
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:20
•Monsters, Inc. 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
•Not Another Teen Movie 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:30, 12, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:45, 12:10
•Spy Game (R) 10:40, 1:30, 2:40, 7:10, 10
•Vanilla Sky (R) 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:30, 11:30

United Artists Hayward 6X

24800 Haspenen, Hayward 510-785-3000
•Behind Enemy Lines 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
•Black Knight (PG-13) 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:40, 9:45
•Ocean's Eleven 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 7:50, 9:30, 10:20
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 4:20, 10
•Spy Game (R) 1:20, 7:20
•Vanilla Sky (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-0606
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 9:30
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 7
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:15
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 8:30, 8:30

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
•Amelle (R) 7, 9:35

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St., Moraga 925-698-3411
•Behind Enemy Lines and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 4:45, 7:45
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 4:40, 7:20, 9:40
•Spy Game (R) 4:20, 7:10, 9:35
•Vanilla Sky (R) 4, 7, 9:45

East Contra Costa

Brenden 16 Theatre

4085 Century Blvd. Pittsburg 925-705-1222
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 1, 3:40, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10
•Black Knight (PG-13) 12, 3, 5:30, 8:20
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:30, 12:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5, 7:30, 9
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:20
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:30, 12:10, 1:50, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:50, 12:50, 2:10, 3:10, 4:40, 5:40, 6:50, 7:50, 9, 10
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:40, 12:20, 1:20, 2:30, 3:20, 4, 5:20, 6, 7, 8, 8:50, 9:50
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 4:20, 10:10
•Spy Game (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7, 9:50
•Vanilla Sky (R) 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20, 10:20
•The Wash (R) 1:10, 3:50, 6:20, 9:10

Delta Cinemas

6411 1st St., Brentwood 925-916-0777
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 1, 4:30, 8
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30

Regal Deer Valley 16

4204 Lone Tree Way, Antioch 925-757-2111
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 1:15, 4, 7:20, 8:05, 10:05
•Black Knight (PG-13) 12:25, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12:30, 1:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7, 8, 10:15
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:55
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 12:30, 1, 2:50, 3:30, 5:15, 5:45, 7:40, 10
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 12:05, 12:40, 2:30, 3:10, 5, 5:30, 7:05, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15, 10:40
•Out Cold (PG-13) 12:25, 3, 5:20, 7:50, 10
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 10:25
•Spy Game (R) 12:50, 4, 7:15, 10:15
•Vanilla Sky (R) 1:10, 1:40, 4:10, 4:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:55, 10:10

West Contra Costa

Century Pinole 10

1491 Fitzgerald Drive, Pinole 510-222-8030
•13 Ghosts (R) 1:30, 3:45, 7:25, 9:20
•Bandits (PG-13) 4:20, 9:25
•Bones (R) 2, 7:05
•Domestic Disturbance (PG-13) 1:45, 3:50, 7:15, 9:15
•From Hell (R) 4:05, 9:05
•Heist (R) 3:55, 9
•Iron Monkey (PG-13) 2:45, 7:20
•K-Pax (PG-13) 1:55, 7:10
•Life As a House (R) 1:50, 7
•The One (PG-13) 1:40, 7
•Out Cold (PG-13) 4, 9:30
•Rush Hour 2 (PG-13) 4:40, 9:10
•Spy Game (R) 2:35, 5:15, 7:45
•Training Day (R) 2:30, 5, 7:35
•The Wash (R) 2:15, 4:25, 7:30, 9:30

Century 16 Hilltop

3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12, 2:50, 5:15, 10
•Black Knight (PG-13) 11:40, 1:55, 4:20, 6:35, 9:35
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:45, 12:20, 1:05, 3:05, 3:40, 4:25, 6:25, 7, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:30
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 12:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 11, 1:45, 7:15, 10

•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:30, 12:05, 12:55, 1:40, 2:15, 3:15, 3:50, 4:35, 5:25, 6, 6:55, 7:40, 8:10, 9:10, 10:05, 10:25
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:35, 12:15, 1:05, 1:45, 2:20, 3, 3:45, 4:30, 5:10, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:05, 8:45, 9:15, 10, 10:35
•Shallow Hal (PG-13) 11:50, 2:40, 5:15, 8, 10:20
•Vanilla Sky (R) 11:25, 1, 2:15, 4, 6, 7:05, 7:50, 9:55, 10:30

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50, 12:15
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12, 1, 3:15, 4:15, 6:30, 7:30, 9:45, 10:40
•Heist (R) 4:25, 9:35
•K-Pax (PG-13) 1:40, 7
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7
•Life As a House (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:25, 10:20
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 12, 1, 2:30, 3:30, 5, 6, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30
•Moulin Rouge (PG-13) 1:05, 4, 7:10, 10:05
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:55, 5:45, 7, 8, 9:15, 10:15, 11:30, 12:30
•Out Cold (PG-13) 2:10, 4:20
•Spide & Mike's 2001 Sick & Twisted Film Festival (Not Rated) 9:40, 12:50
•Spy Game (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:35, 10:35
•Vanilla Sky (R) 12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:45, 12:45

AMC Kabuki 8

1681 Post Street, San Francisco 415-931-9800
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 1:35, 5:05, 8:15, 10:45
•Black Knight (PG-13) 1:25, 4:35, 10:15
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7:30
•Monsters, Inc. 12:40, 3, 5:30, 8:05, 10:25
•Not Another Teen Movie (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:05, 1:50, 4:10, 4:55, 7, 7:55, 9:50, 10:55
•Spy Game (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
•Vanilla Sky (R) 12:50, 4, 7:20, 10:35

Brigitte Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-352-0818
•The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

Castro Theatre

429 Castro St. 415-621-6120
 •Theatre temporarily closed.

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 415-352-0861
•Amelle (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:50

Embarcadero Center Cinema

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0810
•The Affair of the Necklace (R) 1:30, 4, 7, 10
•Burnt Money (Not Rated) 12, 3, 6:45, 9:40
•The Business of Strangers (R) 12:30, 2:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
•Muholland Drive (R) 12:20, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
•Sideways of New York (R) 1, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10

Lumiere Theatre

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-352-0810
•Fat Girl (Not Rated) 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45
•Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy (Not Rated) 12:45, 2:55, 5:30, 7:45, 10
•Tuvalu (Not Rated) 12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:10, 9:30

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Blvd. San Francisco 415-352-0810
•Bread and Tulips (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:35
•The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition (G) 1:20, 4:20
•The Others (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50
•Second Skin (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
•Waking Life (R) 7:20, 9:45

The Red Vic Theatre

1727 Haight, San Francisco 415-688-3994
•Beyond the Valley of The Dolls (NC-17) 7:15, 9:35

The Roxie Theatre

3117 18th Al Valencia, San Francisco 415-863-1087
•A Love Divided (Not Rated) 7, 9:15

Loews Theatres Metreon

101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6200
•Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:30, 12
•Black Knight (PG-13) 11:05, 1:20, 4, 9:45
•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone 11, 12, 12:50, 2:30, 3:30, 4:20, 6:10, 7, 9:50, 10:30
•Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 7
•Monsters, Inc. (G) 1, 3:50, 6:20, 9:10
•Not Another Teen Movie 11:10, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:30, 5:30, 7:20, 8:10, 10:20, 10:50
•Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 10:50, 12

Reviews

THE SHES REVEALS gender...
THE CLOSET: Sad sack Francois...
THE DISTURBANCE: A documentary...

THE CLOSET: Sad sack Francois...
THE DISTURBANCE: A documentary...

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"HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE": Director Chris Columbus has done what fans of J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books prayed he'd do, bringing the story of the orphaned 11-year-old wizard to life exactly as we all envisioned it. There are flaws here and there, mistakes that often go hand in hand with "big" movies — way too much music, a nip and a tuck here and there in a story that sprawled magnificently on the page, and computer work that occasionally shows the limitations of movie magic. But the three young stars far exceed expectations, and the adult cast is just right. How you'll feel about this picture if you're not already in Harry's thrall is an entirely different question, one we're not ashamed to admit we can't answer. — M. Pols. (PG: some scary moments and mild language.) 2 hours, 32 minutes. A-

"FROM HELL": The Hughes brothers' ("Menace II Society") rather suspenseless take on the Jack the Ripper tale, adapted from Alan Moore's popular 1999 graphic novel, demands complete audience detachment. We have to relinquish our curiosity about the mystery of the Ripper and accept the movie's crazy conspiracy theory, which links the crime to the highest ranks of British government. We also have to endure close-ups of throat cuttings and accept the silly notion of a love story blooming among the bodies between Ripper's next intended victim (Heather Graham) and the detective in charge of the case (Johnny Depp). Depp is divine as usual, and the movie looks cool, but that's about it. — M. Pols. (R: strong violence/gore, sexuality, language and drug content.) 2 hours, 2 minutes. C

"HEIST": David Mamet comes dangerously close to going mainstream in this caper about a team of thieves pulling one last job before retirement. How many times are we going to have to sit through this tired old plot? Mamet jazzes it up with his peculiar mannered dialogue and a great cast, but it's still ultimately forgettable stuff. Gene Hackman gives a clever, satisfying performance, proving he's still got it, and look for strong supporting work from the wonderful Ricky Jay and Delroy Lindo. But it's time for Mamet to stop casting his wife, Rebecca Pidgeon, who plays Hackman's sexy wife, in every movie he makes. All she does is parrot Mamet-speak. — M. Pols. (R: language and some violence.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. B-

"IRON MONKEY": A new soundtrack and gigantic subtitles revive this 1993 Hong Kong cult classic directed by Yuen Wo-Ping ("The Matrix" choreographer). A "masked avenger" named Iron Monkey (Robin Hood) for our comparative literature types' robs from corrupt officials and gives to poor refugees in late-19th-century China. A government sweep happens to pull in visiting folk here Wong Kei Ying (Donnie Yen) and son Wong Fei Hung (played by an amazing girl, Sze-Man Tsang). Dad is forced to play bounty hunter while his son is held captive. Good guys can't fight one another for long, so a real bad guy is tossed in. The film is no epic, but there's gale-storm action and broad comedy elevated by fabbergasting martial arts, and how can one resist a climactic fight atop flaming poles? — V. Chan. (PG-13: martial arts action, violence and brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B

"LIFE AS A HOUSE": There's a hormone that kicks in after childbirth that makes a woman forget just how awful it was, reproduction's form of self-defense. Kevin Kline serves the same function in this mawkish movie about a

dying man who embarks on an ambitious plan to build his dream house and regain the love of his wayward teen-age son (Hayden Christensen, the future Anakin Skywalker). Kline's performance is so restrained and moving that it almost saves the movie. But ultimately, director Irwin Winkler turns this into "American Beauty Lite," with a Hallmark ending. — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality and drug use.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B-

"THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE": Ethan and Joel Coen's chilly black-and-white homage to film noir plays out like a creative lark, the kind of experimentation artists indulge in once the bills are paid. Billy Bob Thornton is fascinating to watch as a late 1940s barber who makes the mistake of blackmailing his wife's lover (James Gandolfini) to get the capital to invest in a dry cleaning business. With its fantastically cool look and dry wit, this is distinctly Coen brothers fare, but if you compare it to their best work, it feels more like an itch the brothers needed to scratch than, say, a "Fargo." Of course, with them, even an itch is going to be entertaining. — M. Pols. (R: a scene of violence.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

"MONSTERS, INC.": Thanks to the rich imaginations at the Emeryville-based animation house Pixar, small children everywhere will soon have a new perspective on the monsters they fear may lurk under their beds. The genius premise here is that yes, of course monsters are real, but vulnerable. They're terrified of children, but they continue to frighten them because back in monsterland, scream power is harnessed and used as the main source of energy. The ebbing innocence of the world's children has created an energy crisis. This is a wonderful, funny story for the whole family, rich with superior animation and major heart. Voiced by John Goodman and Billy Crystal, among others. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A-

"MULHOLLAND DR.": At the end of this mind-trip, all you can do is laugh. David Lynch has once again led us on a merry dance through a minefield littered with freaks, apple-pie moments we can't trust, terrifying weirdoes and puzzling, possibly pointless scenes. A beautiful amnesiac and a cheery, innocent ingenue set out to solve a mystery. Then they become different people. Chances are it's all a dream, or at least half a dream. Makes "Memento" look easy to understand. Lynch probably won't win himself any new fans with this one, but old ones will enjoy this excursion into his creative mind. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and some strong sexuality.) 2 hours, 26 minutes. B+

"OCEAN'S ELEVEN": It's not what you might have hoped for on an Oscar-winning director, but Steven Soderbergh's remake of the Rat Pack classic about a casino heist in Las Vegas is pretty winning stuff. George Clooney stars as Danny Ocean, the leader of the new pack. The cast is all A-list, although some, like Julia Roberts, deliver performances more suitable to the B list. But Brad Pitt, Eliot Gould and Carl Reiner are a delight to watch, and the movie sings along with that Soderbergh style and rhythm. Keep your expectations low and you'll have a good time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some language and sexual content.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B+

"THE ONE": Combining time-travel with the action-hero-in-dual-roles element, Jet Li plays a killer imprisoned in one "multiverse" who zips through a wormhole into our universe, where he faces off against a copy while bilkily racking up a body count. Both Lis are super-fast, super-strong and super uninterested in logic or recognizable human emotions. The action is well-staged, but even if you can follow the plot, you won't care much about it. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: intense action violence and some language.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. D

"PORN STAR: THE LEGEND OF RON JEREMY": A sad but funny documentary about unlikely porn star Ron

Jeremy, a short, portly and unkempt Jewish boy from Brooklyn with an unfortunate amount of body hair. He's made 1,600 porn films, but all Jeremy really wants is to be accepted by mainstream Hollywood. As pathetic as his quest is, director Scott Glick laces the movie with so much humor that this is certainly the most surprisingly funny documentary of the year. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 19 minutes. B

"SERENDIPITY": Adorable John (John Cusack) meets adorable Sara (Kate Beckinsale) one magical night in New York. Believing in fate, she refuses to exchange phone numbers or names in the usual fashion. Seven years later, both of them are teetering on the brink of marriage to unsuitable others and wondering what might have been. They set out to find each other, leading to the kind of quest where Party A gets in a cab that pulls away from the curb just as Party B comes running up. Repeatedly. "Sleepless in Seattle" teased us with near-misses, "Serendipity" taunts us until it's hard to care about the couple. This romance is passable, but you expect more from a John Cusack movie. Can easily wait for the rental. — M. Pols. (PG-13: a scene of sexuality, brief language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C-

"SHALLOW HALL": From advertisements and previews, this comedy from the Farrelly brothers seems like it will be astoundingly insulting to overweight people. But while it does plunge cheerfully into the brothers' customary tastelessness, it is also oddly sweet, soulful, and even, egads, well-intentioned. Jack Black plays shallow Hal, an average guy only attracted to women of supermodel stature. That changes when he's hypnotized by self help guru Anthony Robbins, who opens his eyes to the beauty of women such as Rosemary, a 300-pound Peace Corps volunteer. To Hal, Rosemary is slim, svelte, Gwyneth Paltrow. The movie is sloppily shot and edited, but it's got its charms, and the Farrellys clearly have big hearts. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language and sexual content.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. B-

"SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK": Gregracious ditty about six New Yorkers whose lives are intertwined because of their romantic choices, written and directed by Ed Burns ("The Brothers McMullen"), who also co-stars as Tommy, a TV executive looking for love. He hooks up with Maria (Rosario Dawson), a schoolteacher who is recently divorced from Ben, a doorman. Ben has a fresh crush on Ashley (the excellent Brittany Murphy), a 19-year-old waitress who is sleeping with a married man, Griffin (a cheerfully repugnant Stanley Tucci). Lightweight, like Woody Allen without hard feelings, but fun, with lots of frank — and accurate — talk about sex and love. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B

Mann

FROM PAGE C3
"Cheap Channel" on many radio web sites) latest cost-cutting binge. Cleary does the 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift. Carter B. Smith, another local radio vet whose show follows Cleary's, has also been cut loose by Cheap Channel. The S.F. nostalgia station will be run as a semi-automated affair (with some local voices) starting next year.

"I'm going away but not going away," says the genial Cleary, explaining he'll continue to do his remote Friday broadcasts on KABL from a local eatery. His pleasant "Food and Travel Enthusiast" (he does the show with wife Mary Ann) will continue to air Sundays at 10 a.m. on KABL (960). Cleary chuckles and says he's not disappointed with his loss of airshift. "I'll finally be able to actually travel again," he says. "I'm looking forward to not having to do a shift every day." Cleary says he's planning a good-bye show for New Year's Eve.

MEDIA NOTES: By the way, Cleary says he ran into another Piedmont the other day. KRON anchor Wendy Tokuda, while dogwalking, "She didn't recognize me when I said hi," Cleary said with a chuckle. . .

Is this movie really necessary? We're referring, of course, to the remake of "Ocean's 11," the ultimate Rat Pack movie. Haven't we already seen far too much of Julia Roberts and George Clooney? The other day on NPR, Shawn Levy, author of "Rat Pack Confidential" (a well-done book on the Vegas hipsters and a good Christmas gift) talked about Frank Sinatra's (Danny Ocean) well-known dislike for doing extra takes and how he and his Vegas buddies walked through the movie. Levy said Sinatra told the director one day, "You want a second take? Make a copy of the print of the first one." Whatever you say, Mr. Sinatra.

It was quite a career change: Steve Newman, long-time weatherman for KGO, KPIX and KRON, decided five years ago to become a long-haul trucker. He told me back then that he was burned out on the TV biz, and so he went to truck-driving school and then bought an 18-wheeler. Now Newman's selling the truck and

Events

FROM PAGE C3

month-long display of spectacular holiday lights. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. \$6.50 general; \$4.50 seniors and children. \$6.50 general; \$3.50 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 3777 Gull Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. (510) 632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

Redwood Regional Park — "Who's Out There," Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help the park's owl boxes for signs of life. Then learn about owls through exploration and dissection of some pre-collected barn owl pellets. For ages 7 and up. Free; \$4 for parking. 7861 Redwood Road, Oakland. (510) 636-1684 or www.ebparks.org

Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve — East Bay residents have several volcanoes in their backyard. This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the Oakland Hills. Free. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

Roberts Regional Recreation Area — Within the park's 82 acres are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing fields, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here. "Ridgeland Wonders," Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discover the past, present and future of the wilds of Oakland. For age 6 and over. Registration required. (510) 521-6887. Free. Skyline Boulevard, 1/2 mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. (510) 521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

Thursday Morning Birdwalks — ongoing. Enjoy the fall weather and see the birds that arrive with fall. Beginners welcome. Call ahead if you need binoculars. Free. (510) 525-2233 or www.ebparks.org

Tilden Regional Park — "Women on Common Ground," Dec. 15, all day. A program for women who love to hike, camp and play in parklands but whose concern for personal safety keeps them from enjoying the parks. Reservations required. (925) 862-2601.

"Ribbon Pinecones," Dec. 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about pine trees and their unique flowers as you decorate pinecones to make festive holiday branch ornaments and gifts. For ages 6 and up. \$3. (510) 525-2233

"In Needin' of Weedin'," Dec. 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Moist soil makes it easy to pull invasive French and Scotch broom. By removing these plants now, it enables native grasses and shrubs to take over. Bring gloves and clippers if possible.

"A Long Winter's Hike," Dec. 16, 9 a.m. to noon. The goal for this hike is Laurel Canyon and beyond, in an exploration of the canyon's natural history. For ages 8 and over.

"Turtles, Tarantulas and Other Fun Stuff," Dec. 16, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Learn about the animals at the Environmental Education Center where there are turtles, a tarantula and a snake or two.

"Astronomy of the Star of Bethlehem," Dec. 16, 23 and Dec. 30, 2 p.m. A slide show on recent ideas regarding the special star that appeared in the sky.

"Tuesday A.M. Birdwalk," Dec. 18, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Birds of the Loop Road and Jewel Lake will be emphasized. Beginners are welcome. For ages 10 and up.

"Shovel Up the Fun!" Dec. 22, 9 a.m. Learn about farm animals by helping with morning chores at the farm, such as cleaning corals, collecting eggs, filling water troughs and more. Wear boots and work clothes.

Solstice Celebration, Dec. 22, 1 p.m. Winter tales, child, popcorn and songs of celebration while learning the science and lore of the winter solstice.

"In Needin' of Feedin'," Dec. 22, 3 p.m. Learn about farm animals while feeding and closing the Little Farm. Wear sturdy shoes.

"Short Day, Short Hike," Dec. 23, 3:30 p.m. A quick hike on local trails to learn the science and adaptation of night vision.

"Christmas Fantasy in the Woods at the Tilden Merry Go Round," through Dec. 23, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Features a twinkling outdoor light display, festive theme trees and holiday gifts. Refreshments are available. Santa visits Monday and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call for story times, craft activities and other scheduled Santa visits.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN - "Winter's Garden," Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to noon. Come along for an early season's examination of native plants at the garden. Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day.

See EVENTS, Page C11

Trucker

FROM PAGE C5
reunion that shatters...
"Christmas Memory" con-

HERE'S A SWITCH FOR
Here's one for the whole...
only three performances

HERE'S A SWITCH FOR
Here's one for the whole...
only three performances

other alternative to the Christmas classics of those admirable worthies Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky ("Nutcracker") and Charles Dickens ("A Christmas Carol"), is a rendition — and I choose the word gingerly — of "Cinderella." It's already up and running at the Ira & Leonore S. Gershwin Theatre, 2350 Turk Blvd., San Francisco, playing through Dec. 22.

This version of the ageless, sticky-sweet story of the poor young slave mistreated by her mean stepmother and sisters, only to be rescued by a handsome Prince after trying on one of the most uncomfortable-sounding slippers in the history of footwear — well this "Cinderella" doesn't come across like that.

This production is rendered, quoting a press release from the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, "... in the wildly popular comic style of British Panto." And if you are unfamiliar with Panto, we learn that the comic art has developed over centuries to arrive at the tradition now enjoyed each year throughout the United Kingdom. Aimed primarily at children, Panto also includes jokes and innuendoes that keep adults entertained, making it a true family event.

Pantos enjoy a long holiday history in England where these rollicking shows (quoting again) "feature cross-dressing, live music, colorful sets and costumes, as well as hilarious predica-

ments."

The show across the Bay dolls up the production with topical humor, local celebrities, slapstick and audience participation.

"Cinderella" is directed by Allen McKelvey with music by Gunnar Madsen.

This is a presentation of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival in association with AmeriCan CitiZen's Theatre — founded by McKelvey in 1995.

"Cinderella" plays at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Two additional 2 p.m. Saturday matinees are scheduled for tomorrow and Dec. 22.

Tickets range from \$19 to \$26 and may be purchased through the City Box Office at 415-392-4400. For group sales, call the festival directly at 415-422-2222.

A HAPPY POSTSCRIPT: Jennifer Rastegar will be playing "Darlene" — her first speaking role since her illness — at this weekend's windup of the extended run of "The Motor Trade," performed at 2050 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill.

Katrina Baumgartner, who's been doing the part, is off to spend Christmas in England. Bon voyage, Katrina, and way to go, Jen!

Certain time is 8:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow. Tickets are \$12 general; \$10 for seniors and students. Call 925-944-9006.

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatricCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The kids on the block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center, sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 549-9662.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Judie, 215-4371.

LBGTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations; and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: linfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

Theater Rats, Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-8370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly): Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and

women in weight control. For more information call Betty Coates at 235-0490. This chapter has moved from Richmond.

The Berkeley Fellowship Social Justice Committee presents "Peace Through Peaceful Means: Alternatives to the Spiral of Violence," at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Berkeley Fellowship Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar (at Bonita). A video/film of a talk by Dr. Johan Galtung of the International Peace Research institution will be followed by a discussion led by Vietnam war resister Leonard McNeil. Doors open at 6 p.m. Sliding Scale donation \$5 to 10 to benefit Berkeley Fellowship Unitarian Universalists and Afghan Relief. For more information, call 841-4824 or 528-5403.

"Afghanistan: A Cultural Journey" is a four-hour public event showcasing Afghanistan's rich and diverse culture, cuisine, musical and natural beauty. The event takes place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Florence Schwimly Little Theater at Berkeley High School, 1020 Alston Way. Food and exhibits open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; program runs from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Featured speakers include Debra Denier, who covered Afghanistan for National Geographic Magazine, Ariene Blum, who led the first American ascent of Annapurna I, and Nadia Tarzi, daughter of the former director of the Afghan Archaeological Institute. For more information, call 415-244-7449 or visit the Web Dog and puppy temporary foster homes urgently needed. Shelters overcrowded, situation desperate. Call Hopalong Animal Rescue today, 530-5154.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-8606.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, contact the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individu-

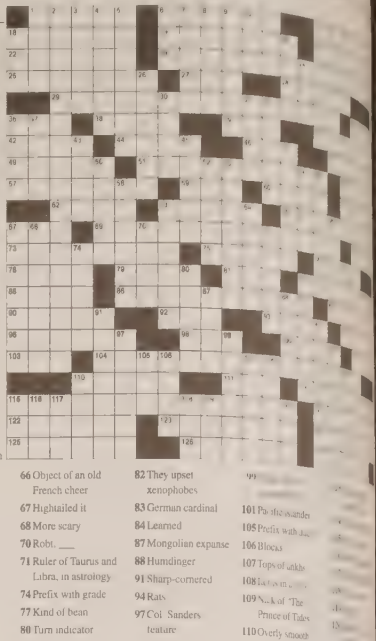
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33 Dot follower
36 Spring
38 Blackthorn
39 "It Must Be ____"
40 Delhi stuffed pastry
42 On one's guard
44 ____ speak
46 Tie ____-toe
48 It may be French
49 Pres. Garfield's
middle name
51 1998 in-flight
movie?
56 One year into
Claudia's reign
57 White House
family of 1849
59 43-Down student

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

IN-FLIGHT MOVIES

By Cathy Millhauser / Edited by Will Shortz

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72 Clinton ____ Rodham	126 Peak in N.E. Greece
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76 Wit Bombeck	
78 Seigne tributary	
79 St. Petersburg's river	
81 It's a pleasure	
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96 Snaggle's activity	
98 Honour given to J. K. Rowling; Abbr.	
100 Riffic	
102 Don't waste	
103 Prohibitionist	
104 1997 in-flight movie?	
110 Tropical fruit	
111 French pronoun	



als who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies", volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays: free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project, the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming

homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends, Dec. 1 and 2, 8 and 9, 15 and 16. A free map is available listing all participants. Over one hundred professional artists and craftspeople open their doors to the public. Artwork includes blown glass, functional and decorative ceramics, ornaments,

menorahs, clocks, lamps and lighting, furniture, garden art, bird houses, egg dioramas, floor cloths, clothing, textiles, many styles of jewelry, sculpture photography, paintings, original prints and more. All artwork is hand-crafted and many pieces are one-of-a-kind. This free self-guided tour offers opportunities to meet the artists, and to see inside working studios. For more information, call Susan Brooks at 845-2612.

Albany Community Center continues its exhibit of acrylic paintings by Mei-Rung Huang through Dec. 6 in its foyer, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. The exhibit entitled "Lotus," is influenced by both Eastern and Western traditions of

art. Huang's mother she has been living in Taiwan. She has Eastern Oregon State more information, call 845-2612. The Richmond Museum continues its exhibit of the year. The museum's historic 1910 Carnegie the Old Downtown area.

See CALENDAR p. 6

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CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Calendar

FROM PAGE C6

Art Studio and Nivn Ave. Call 235-5555 for more information or to register.

City of El Cerrito presents Open House on Monday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience with clay is free, but not necessary. Opportunity will be provided for students to learn areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on request. Admission \$7.50. 39-52 routes clients. The location: Pottery Center, 2575 Broadway, Suite 100. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents members of the California Association at its Community Center, 2450 Ashby Ave. The gallery is in the main lobby to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

Plaza Gallery is located at 2088 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more information, call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

Library Events

Reading Edge is available for publication at the Berkeley Public Library, 221 Alston Way. This computer program prints text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability who requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge, after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 844-6848 to set up a training session.

Dinner Committee seeks papers about "Searching," the theme of the twenty-third contest. The deadline for submission is Jan. 16. Other categories are beginnings and endings, horror, nature, love, spaces and places, people, and poet's choice. Contact Richard Angilly at 1515 Alameda Ave., Richmond, CA. 94805 to submit poetry or for more information.

Library 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry writing workshops on the second Wednesdays of the month, by Alan Sevak. The next meeting is 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 in the Edith Stone Room. The event is free and open to all ages. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 525-5555.

Meetings

Bay Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, at the Northridge Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

Bay Camera Club meet Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northridge Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts hosts an informational and discussion session regarding dance opportunities in the Bay Area. The center opens its doors to the dance community and presents its plans for Dance Week 2002 and for future dance performances on the stage of Julia Morgan Theatre. The event is free. RSVP to Budget Frederick at budget@juliamorgan.org or by calling 845-8542, ext. 302. Visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org for more details.

Kensington Senior Activity Center meets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The West Contra Costa Adult school and community volunteers present the Center's program of life-long learning. Attend any class or event. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Volunteers of all ages are needed. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for more information.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2088 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more information, call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Avator Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly, on the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Larde at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2088 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 844-6107 for additional information. The Berkeley Communicators' Club meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and third Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avator Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

"Voices of Healing" is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment, 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays, fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships. Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-6337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month: 1 - 2:30 p.m., 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nivn (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS; 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin 233-2948 or Karen 525-6858.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Berkeley Details: 204-4503.

Music

MusicSources and dance doyens Carol Teten invite the public to learn a famous 18th century dance at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at MusicSources 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. Following the presentation plan to re main for a reception and an opportunity to explore MusicSources and its historic instruments. Admission, general, \$18. MS Members, seniors and students, \$15. For family rates, reservations and more information, call 528-1685.

The Crowden School, 1475 Rose St presents its "Third Annual Colin Hampton Memorial Concert." at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. This showcase highlighting the most talented young string players in the Bay Area, features cellist Dana Putnam, a budding string quartet from the graduate chamber music program of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and members of the Berkeley Cello Club performing cello ensemble music of Colin Hampton. A preconcert talk is at 3:15 p.m. Admission \$10, free for cellists and those under 18. For more information, call 559-6910.

Chamber Music Sundae presents musicians of the San Francisco Symphony at 3:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. The performances include Mozart's Flute Quartet featuring San Francisco piccolo player Cathy Payne, the Debussy String Quartet, and the Beethoven Septet with violinist Melissa Klenbart. Tickets at the door \$18, \$14 for students and seniors and \$8 for youth under 18. For more information, call 415-584-5946.

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required just a love of singing. Classical, pop sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

Ducksan Distones, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica,

Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Gustino on Fretless Gibson 14, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave. presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z D on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing 8 p.m. - 11 p.m., no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave., \$4. call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lela 655-3911.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointments and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Alta Bates Medical Center presents a

free support group for family, friends caring for older adults from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., on the third Wednesday of each month. The session takes place at the Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way Berkeley, third floor room 33698 (take elevator B). The group will focus on the needs of older adults with serious medical problems, psychiatric illnesses, such as depression, dementia and/or substance abuse. For more information or if interested in a private consultation, call 802-1725.

The number of recent tragedies both locally and across the nation can evoke reactions that can affect us emotionally physically, in our thoughts and behavior. Alameda County Crisis Support Services offers help through its 24-hour crisis line, grief counseling, education and community debriefing programs. Call 849-2212 for more information.

A free Yoga for Cancer class meets every Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:45 p.m. at the Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center. The classes are open to both current patients and long-term survivors. Call Janet 891-9560 for directions and more information.

Restorative Yoga class meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in central Berkeley. Cost \$10 per class. Easy, luxurious stretches and mindful breathing help to ease tension and discomfort and open the body to relaxation and well-being. Call Janet 891-9560, for directions and more information.

Adult Survivors of Incest, a local support group in the east bay is being formed. The group will gather for hearing discussions and also various activities, including hiking, dancing, classic film watching, traveling, or any fun activity. Interested participants call Althea Pease at 625-1698. Feel free to leave a message.

The pain and grief associated with the death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming - especially during the holidays. Many people suffer isolation

See CALENDAR, Page C8

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Calendar

FROM PAGE C7

help. No one is turned away for lack of money. Call 889-1104.

The Grief Care Community offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information.

The local self-help group for Berkeley National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus offers a guided relaxation and visualization for patients with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innovative approach to reducing stress and anxiety and creating positive, life-affirming images. Call 204-1811 for additional information. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center, offers a Brief Education Class every third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at ABMC Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. The class covers common and personal grief reactions. Fee: \$10. No one refused due to inability to pay. For further information, contact 841-2930.

Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center Salon, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.bali.org.

The City of Berkeley Portable Meals Program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to homebound seniors. Call 644-8590.

The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothea Dorenz, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-healing methods. Bring a small pillow, and wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Lecture/Workshop

Jacques Bouchard director, French Nuclear Society, and a member of the Atomic Energy Commission of France will discuss safe, viable and environmentally sound nuclear power as an alternative energy source at 1 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10 at UC Berkeley Alumni House. Sponsors are the Goldman School of Public Policy, the Department of Nuclear Engineering at UC Berkeley and the World Affairs Council of Northern California. No charge. For reservations, directions and more information, call 415-597-6705.

UC Botanical Garden offers a free plant clinic from 9 a.m. to noon, first Saturday of every month at Strawberry Canyon, 200 Central Drive. For more information, call 643-2755.

Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community

Center expanded its collection of contemporary fiction, nonfiction and children's books. Meet the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is open to the public. Hours: 11 and to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. To sign up call 268-4995.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.ccoec.k12.ca.us/rop

"What Is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Book-sellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Prigato Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Theater, Dance & Film

The Masquers Playhouse of Point Richmond presents the comedy "Inspecting Carol," at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22. Sunday Matinees are at 2:30 p.m. A man walks into a small, mid-western theatre and asks for an audition, he is suspected of being an informer for the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets are **Transparent Theater**, 1901 Ashby Ave., presents "Brave Brood," a searing tale of money, desperation, and the fight for survival, through Dec. 16. Season and single tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 883-0305 to log on to www.virtuosus.com. Tickets are \$20 and performances are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. Sunday night performances are "pay-what-you-can," with curtain at 7 p.m. For additional information, go to the Website at www.transparenttheater.org.

Aurora Theater, 2081 Addison St., presents George Bernard Shaw's Nobel Prize-winning drama "Saint Joan" through Dec. 2. In 1429, France and England are engaged in the Hundred Years' War. England occupies much of France, and resistance is minimal due to lack of leadership and hope. Joan, a young farm girl, inspired by voices, fights the English to crown the Dauphin Charles VII king of France. Tickets: \$26-35. For more information call 843-4822 or visit www.auroratheatre.org for more information.

Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2 and \$1 for kids. For more information, call 525-1130.

Family Folkdancing takes place on the third Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Call 632-3715 for additional information.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

Classes

Albany Adults School offers classes in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish this quarter. Most classes meet in the evening once a week for 10 weeks. A few are offered in the afternoon also. Meet at 601 San Gabriel Ave. In Albany, or across the street at the Albany Middle School. Average cost is \$48 plus books. Call the Adult School at 559-6580 for more information.

Folkdance classes, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple and clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (prorated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. For more information, call Mel Harte, at 644-5288 before 9 p.m.

Vista Community College, 2020 Millia St., offers its new Sunrise College this spring with classes in accounting, e-commerce, business, Java programming, English, ESL, statistics and Spanish for business professionals.

Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information.

Assets Senior Employment offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Class starts soon. Call 238-3554 for more information.

The Albany YMCA offers after school classes for elementary and middle school age children. The YMCA offers sports and dance programs, gymnastics and Hip Hop and enrichment programs such as cooking, sewing and art. Financial assistance always available. For more information, call 525-1130.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., offers a family-friendly program of classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For more information, including complete class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, see www.juliamorgan.org or call 845-8542 for a brochure.

The Berkeley Adult School (BAS) offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Call 644-6130 for additional information.

The South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. For additional information and class scheduling, call 883-5222.

Interview Clinics sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Center at 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. The class is free to YWCA members. This technique is designed to help individuals understand themselves better. Call 848-6370 for additional information. Leave a message for Anne Levine.

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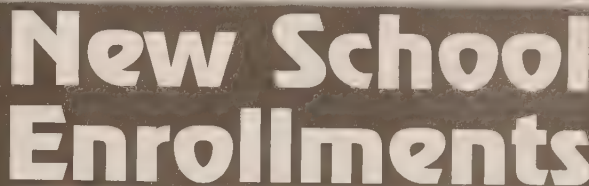
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C9

See CALENDAR Page C12



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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

870 Legal Notice

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE. Trustee Sale No. 01-04433. Loan No. 15817105. Title Order No. 1234159. 549-032-002-4. FHA #142-7133285723 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A

DEED OF TRUST DATED 04/09/97 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEED-

INGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On December 27, 2001 at 10:00 AM, ARM FINANCIAL CORPORATION as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust

recorded on 04/22/97 Instrument 97-0065584-00, Book, Page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of CONTRA COSTA County, California, executed by DANIEL ROMERO, A SINGLE MAN AND

LEONOR ROMERO, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor, HOMESIDE LENDING INC., as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the

United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings asso-

ciation, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, AT THE COURT STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 725

COURT STREET, CORNER OF MAIN & COURT STREETS, MARTINEZ, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, Cali-

870 Legal Notice

any, of the real property described above is put-
ted to be 2408 MAINE
AVE. RICHMOND, CA
94604. The undersigned
Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, post-session, encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit:

\$34,965.90 (Estimated) accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase the figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Date 12/10/01 ARM FINANCIAL CORPORATION, P.O. Box 95309, San Diego, CA 92186-5309. Sales information (616) 974-6099. General Information (858) 689-9735. ANDREA THOMPSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY NPD090015 12/07/01 12/14/01, CUS-329567#

Legal The Journal #0724, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 2001

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST. File A-5178 Loan 429-14274377. Other: 387995-397 Investor Loan #. A.P. Number 513-295-019 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED

OF TRUST, DATED August 23, 2000 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEED-

INGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On December 27, 2001 at 10:00 AM, ARM FINANCIAL CORPORATION as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust

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United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings asso-

870 Legal Notice

ING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that Ronald D. Roup, a Law Corp. Substituted Trustee, as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by James Agalos, a single man, Recorded on 08/31/2000, as Instrument No. 00-0188160-00 in Book Page 255 of Official Records in the Office of the County Recorder of Contra Costa County, California, and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 08/23/2001 in Book-- Page 255 of Official Records, will sell on 12/27/2001 at the street entrance to the County Courthouse, 725 Court Street, Martinez, CA at 10:00 A.M. at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, hereinafter described: Lot 2244, which map was filed for record in the Office of the Recorder of the County of Santa Clara, State of California on August 2, 1959, in Book 59 of Maps, Page(s) 44, et seq. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be 4617 Fall Avenue Richmond, CA 94804. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$135,892.42. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section

5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event, lender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided thereon. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Umberg, 234 Pinole Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061. This business is conducted by an individual, Michael Umberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on date indicated by file stamp above. Business commenced on November 20, 2001. Expires November 20, 2006.

Legal The Journal #0725, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 2001

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE. Trustee Sale No. 01-04433. Loan No. 15817105. Title Order No. 1234159. 549-032-002-4. FHA #142-7133285723 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A

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United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings asso-

870 Legal Notice

November 13, 2001 Expires November 13, 2006
Legal The Journal #0721
Publish November 23, 30,
December 7, 14, 2001.

FILED
NOVEMBER 20, 2001
STEPHEN L. WEIR,
County Clerk
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
By J. ODEGAARD
Deputy
FILE NO. 2001-7563

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The name of the business, ALPINE BUILDING AND MODELING is located at 234 Pinole Ave. in Redwood City, CA 94061. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Umberg, 234 Pinole Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061. This business is conducted by an individual, Michael Umberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on date indicated by file stamp above. Business commenced on November 20, 2001. Expires November 20, 2006.

Legal The Journal #0725, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 2001

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870 Legal Notice

November 13, 2001 Expires November 13, 2006
Legal The Journal #0721
Publish November 23, 30,
December 7, 14, 2001.

FILED
NOVEMBER 20, 2001
STEPHEN L. WEIR,
County Clerk
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
By J. ODEGAARD
Deputy
FILE NO. 2001-7563

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870 Legal Notice

November 21, 2001 Expires November 21, 2006
Legal The Journal #0726
Publish December 7, 14,
21, 28, 2001

FILED
NOVEMBER 08, 2001
STEPHEN L. WEIR,
County Clerk
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
By J. ODEGAARD
Deputy
FILE NO. 2001-7317

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The name of the business, DAZZLE is located at 66 Baldwin Ave. in Crockett, CA, 94525. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ruth P. Maricich, 96 Baldwin Ave., Crockett, CA 94525. This business is conducted by an individual, Ruth Maricich. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on date indicated by file stamp above. Business commenced on November 08, 2001. Expires November 08, 2006.

Legal The Journal #0727, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001.

FILED
DECEMBER 04, 2001
STEPHEN L. WEIR,
County Clerk
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
By J. ODEGAARD
Deputy
FILE NO. 2001-7628

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The name of the business, DUCKWORTH ENTERTAINMENT is located at 3535 El Portal Drive #C306 in El Sobrante, CA 94803. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robert C. Duckworth, 3535 El Portal Drive #C306, El Sobrante, CA 94803. This business is conducted by an individual, Robert C. Duckworth. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on date indicated by file stamp above. Business commenced on December 04, 2001. Expires December 04, 2006.

Legal The Journal #0729, Publish December 14, 21, 28, 2001 January 4, 2002

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE. Trustee Sale No. 01-04433. Loan No. 15817105. Title Order No. 1234159. 549-032-002-4. FHA #142-7133285723 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A

DEED OF TRUST DATED 04/09/97 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEED-

870 Legal Notice

November 21, 2001 Expires November 21, 2006
Legal The Journal #0726
Publish December 7, 14,
21, 28, 2001

FILED
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recorded on 04/22/97 Instrument 97-0065584-00, Book, Page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of CONTRA COSTA County, California, executed by DANIEL ROMERO, A SINGLE MAN AND

LEONOR ROMERO, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor, HOMESIDE LENDING INC., as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the

United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings asso-

ciation, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, AT THE COURT STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 725

COURT STREET, CORNER OF MAIN & COURT STREETS, MARTINEZ, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, Cali-

fornia describing the land therein. As more fully described on the above mentioned Deed of Trust. The property heretofore described is being sold as is. The street address and other common designation,

if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided thereon. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Umberg, 234 Pinole Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061. This business is conducted by an individual, Michael Umberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on date indicated by file stamp above. Business commenced on November 20, 2001. Expires November 20, 2006.

Legal The Journal #0725, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 2001

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United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings asso-

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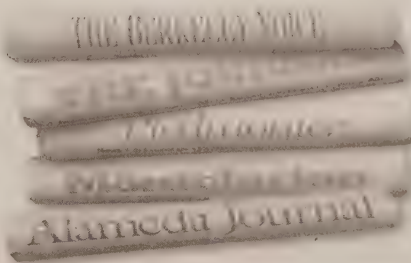
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...and explores the phenom-
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...ongoing exhibit A
...hands-on prob-
...stations, each with a
...challenge
...ce-cream
...structures, make do-
...of a variety of
...shapes and stretch
...thinking.
...Human Brain," ongo-
...Visitors test their cra-
...play skeeball, master
...match musical tones and
...stories inside a simu-
...of learning experi-
...The Light Fantastic," ongo-
...Make a laser light
...work a supermarket-style
...holograms and
...laser beam behemoths.
...Two Worlds of Science," on-
...Exhibit. Explore European
...Native American science and
...at the time of Colum-
...voyage, through activities
...navigation
...map making, computer
...and a replica of the rock-
...of the Nile.
...ECLIPSE Viewing, Dec.
...11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Telescopes
...specially designed sun-spot-
...be set up for safe viewing
...partial annular eclipse of
...by the moon. Hands-on
...will take place before the
...ING PROGRAMS — Free at-
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...an adult. Saturday, 12:30
...to 3:30 p.m.
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...play, Sunday and holidays,
...to 4 p.m.
...PLANETARIUM — Programs
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...limited. \$2 in addition to reg-
...admission. Satur-
...Sunday and holidays.
...to the Moon." Take an

imaginary trip to the moon and learn about its changing shapes. For ages 4 and up. 1 p.m.
"Constellations Tonight." Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations for the season in the planetarium sky. For ages 8 and up. 3:30 p.m.
CHILDREN'S EVENT —
"Magic School Bus Video Festival," Dec. 22 and Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Watch Ms. Frizzle take her class from outer space to inside a dog's nose in different video adventures shown on a big screen. Free popcorn and a Magic School Bus gift.
\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 children age 3 to 5; free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, University of California, Berkeley, (510) 642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu

Oakland Public Library —
DIMOND BRANCH —
"Internet Workshops," Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
3565 Fruitvale Ave. (510) 482-7844.
MARTIN LUTHER KING BRANCH —
Kwanzaa Celebration, Dec. 20, 3:30 p.m. Yolanda Rhodes leads a day of stories, music and the principles of Kwanzaa.
6833 International Blvd. (510) 615-5728.
WEST OAKLAND BRANCH —
"Instructor's Seminar and Black Belt Conference," Dec. 15, noon to 5 p.m. Presentations, discussions and exhibitions on philosophy, violence prevention, teaching methods and more. All styles and systems are welcome. Co-sponsored by 7 Shadows, USA Martial Arts Association.
"Chess Workshop for Children," Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. 1801 Adeline St. (510) 597-5049. Free. Oakland. (510) 238-3134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

Camron-Stanford House —
"Oh! What a Beautiful Tree!" through Jan. 1. A complete top-to-bottom traditional holiday decorating of this 125-year-old Victorian mansion on the shores of Lake Merritt. Evergreen garlands, wreaths, red bows, cornucopias and boughs are dominated by the 12-foot tree, decorated with handmade and hand-blown ornaments, in the bay window of the Drawing Room.
1418 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. Wednesday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (510) 836-1976.

Peralta Hacienda Historical Park —
Kwanzaa Table Displays, Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. Create table displays for Kwanzaa, Christmas and other winter holidays for the Open House.
Free. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. (510) 525-0712.

West Coast Live —
"Jug band, Jazz and Presidential Politics," Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to noon. San Francisco's live, on-stage radio show. Special guests: presidential biographer Edmund Morris, The Christmas Jug Band, Elaine Lucia and her band, and comic improv from True Fiction magazine.
\$16.50 to \$17.50. Freight and Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1781 or (510) 762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

Community Menorah Lighting —
Dec. 21, 6 p.m. Chabad of the East Bay invites all to learn more about the Festival of Lights, dance to the music, enjoy traditional Hanukkah goodies and help celebrate the lighting of the 11-foot tall Menorah.
Free. Jack London Square, foot of Broadway, Oakland. (510) 628-8490 or www.OaklandCityCenter.com

Museums
Ebony Museum Of Arts —
A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.
Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. (510) 763-0141.

Judah L. Magnes Museum —
"Telling Time: To Everything There Is A Season," through May 2002. An exhibit structured around the seasons of the year and the seasons of life with objects ranging from the sacred and the secular, to the provocative and the whimsical. Highlights from Jewish and other cultures such as Tibetan and Mexican-American include treasures from ceremonial and folk art, rare books and manuscripts, contemporary and traditional fine art, video, photography and cultural kitsch.
TUESDAY TALKS —
Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Featuring extended Magnes hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Free. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. (510) 549-6950 or www.magnesmuseum.org

Miss College Art Museum —
"Unearthing Traditions: Japanese Expressions in Clay and Ink," closing Dec. 21. An exhibit including a wide chronological range of works in clay and ink, dating from prehistory to the mid-20th century.
"Zarina: Mapping a Life," closing Dec. 21. An exhibit of installations, drawings and woodblock prints by Zarina, in which she investigates the meaning of identity

and home to people whose cultural roots have been dislodged and their values challenged.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oak-

land. (510) 430-2184 or

See EVENTS, Page C12

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Jill Cash
2809 Telegraph Ave
Berkeley, CA
510-843-8300



Steve Bauer
2980 College Ave
Berkeley, CA
510-548-2929



Frank Bliss
1700 Solano Ave
Berkeley, CA
510-527-2000



Cathy Monroe CPCU
1639 Solano Ave
Berkeley, CA
510-527-6011



Edwin Ho
2096 San Pablo Ave
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510-549-2122



John Kistner
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510-526-7036

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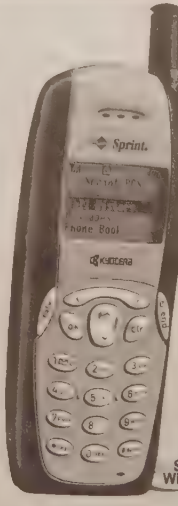
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Events

FROM PAGE C11
www.mills.edu/UCAM

Musee Des Hommages —

"Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings handpainted by master California artist Colwell. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European paintings from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does not have regular hours so call ahead when planning a visit.

Free. 2028 9th St., Berkeley. (510) 841-4210 or www.atelier9.com.

The Oakland Museum Of California —

"California's Native Grandeur: Preserving Vanishing Landscapes," through April 14. An exhibition of approximately 50 paintings that documents the visions of early West Coast landscape painters. Artists featured include William Wendt, Granville Redmond, Maynard Dixon, William Keith, Thomas Hill, Paul Grimm and Guy Rose.

"Grand Lyricist: The Art of Elmer Bischoff," through Jan. 13. Featuring 64 paintings and 13 works on paper that trace the evolution of Bischoff's career from his early abstract-surrealist efforts to the great nonobjective paintings of the 1980s.

"Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity," through Jan. 13. More than 500

examples of kente cloth, the traditional dress of kings in Ghana, will be on display. Kente is worn in the United States as part of church celebrations and school graduation ceremonies, for holidays such as Juneteenth and Kwanzaa and as a means of connecting African Americans to their African origins.

"The Rustler Ranch Mastodon Project," ongoing. Visitors are invited to watch staff members of the Natural Sciences Department prepare a nearly complete mastodon for exhibit. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS —
"Our Kind of Winter," through Feb. 13. Prints by Bob Walker are on display. Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 1945 Broadway, Oakland.

"Revelations," through Feb. 13. Art by Jennifer Bain will be on display. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Latham Square Office Building, 1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

SPECIAL EVENT —
"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library. \$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children age 5 and under; second Sundays are free to all. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (888) OAK-MUSE or www.museumca.org

The Pardee Home Museum —
The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and

cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended.

\$5 general; free children under age 12. House Tours: Friday and Saturday, noon. 672 11th St., Oakland. (510) 444-2187 or www.pardeehome.org

UC Berkeley Art Museum —

"Thomas Scheibitz/MATRIX 195 1-geometria B," through Jan. 13. An exhibit including a new body of paintings created during the artist's residency this fall at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Marin County, as well as works on paper and a sculpture.

"Hans Hofmann: RealLife," through May 26. This exhibition in the Museum's Hofmann Gallery explores the sources of Hofmann's understanding of "the real" in abstract painting through comparisons with works by other modern artists including Wassily Kandinsky, Robert Delaunay and Alexej von Jawlensky.

"Fast Forward: An Exhibition Highlighting Our Growing Collection," through Feb. 24. This exhibition looks at how the museum's art collections have grown in the past five years, with art ranging from Baroque and 19th century works on paper to Conceptual art, historical Chinese paintings, Indian miniatures and photographs.

"Martin Puryear: Sculpture of the 1990s," through Jan. 13. A major exhibition of large-scale sculpture by Puryear, recently nominated "America's Best Artist" by Robert Hughes in Time magazine.

"The Dream of the Audience: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha (1951-1982)," closing Dec. 16. The first retrospective exhibition of work by

the under-represented Korean American conceptual artist and UC Berkeley alumnus.

THE ASIAN GALLERIES —
"The Lady at the Window: Figure Painting in the Qing Dynasty," through Feb. 28. Beautiful women, scholar-poets, a demon-queller, as well as beggars and street vendors, make up this new exhibition exploring the way Chinese painters present the human figure in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

\$6 general; \$4 seniors and students ages 12 to 18; free children under 12 and UC Berkeley students; free Thursdays. Wednesday and Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-0808 or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

UC Berkeley Museum Of Paleontology —

"Tyrannosaurus Rex," ongoing. A 20-foot tall, 40-foot long replica of the fearsome dinosaur. The replica is made from casts of bones of the most complete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated. When unearthed in Montana, the bones were all lying in place with only a small piece of the tailbone missing.

"Pteranodon," ongoing. A suspended skeleton of a flying reptile with a wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The Pteranodon lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.

"California Fossils Exhibit," ongoing. An exhibit of some of the fossils that have been excavated in California.

Free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Lobby, Valley Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. (510) 642-1821 or www.ucmp.berkeley.edu

ley.edu

UC Berkeley Phoebe Hearst Museum Of Anthropology —

PERMANENT EXHIBITS —
"Approaching a Century of Anthropology: The Phoebe Hearst Museum," open-ended. This new permanent installation will introduce visitors to major topics in the museum's history, including the role of Phoebe Apperson Hearst as the museum's patron, as well as the relationship of anthropologists Alfred Kroeber and Robert Lowie to the museum.

"Ishi and the invention of Yahi Culture."

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Calendar

FROM PAGE C9

qualifications are to like plants and to enjoy people. The training teaches about the Garden and how to lead tours. Call 643-11924 for more information and an application.

The Richmond Public Library seeks Internet Docents to teach Internet skills and to provide hands-on assistance to library patrons. Volunteers are needed for the main library Adult Department, the Children's Department, and the Bayview or West Side branch libraries. Volunteers agree to work with the public for at least one three-hour slot per week for a three month period. Solid Internet skills, including knowledge of Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer and the ability to use two search engines well are required. Applications are available at the information desk at the main library or at the two branches. For more information, call 620-6561.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley needs volunteers. The center serves women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 548-6933.

Volunteers needed at Good Stuff Thrift Shop in El Cerrito. A fun, friendly

place to work, all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Call 528-9455 for additional information.

Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

Volunteer at the Crucible, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 643-5511 or e-mail crucible@jps.net for more information on how to get involved.

There is an immediate need for Home Delivered Meal volunteers at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

Breast Cancer Action, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week,

are available. Call 415-243-9301, for additional information.

Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-8933.

Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest

of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. To receive an application and information call 268-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.

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Friday, December 14, 2001

Section D

Generation Gap: Cadillac offers first sport-utility truck [D2]



MERCEDES-BENZ added the C-Class sports coupe, the C230, to its offerings for 2002, giving it excellent fuel mileage and minimal wind noise at speed due to its low co-efficient of drag.

Mercedes-Benz C230 Kompressor Coupe is enthusiast's dream

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Last year's introduction of the Mercedes-Benz C-Class sedan was a success.

With either 2.6 or 3.2-liter V-6 power, it has steadily been gaining momentum in the near-luxury segment of the automobile industry. Joining the sedan this year is a wagon, the 349-horsepower C32 AMG and our test vehicle this week, the C230 Sports Coupe.

Outside: Seven inches have been sliced from the C-Class sedan's length to make the sports coupe. Mercedes mentions that the

look of the sports coupe is unique and that no body panels will interchange with the sedan or wagon.

It does include a similarly sleek nose, sweeping elliptical headlights and turn signals that are placed in outside mirrors like the sedan. And like the sedan, the hood outlines the sweeping shape of the headlights.

The only bit of brightwork on the car is the flush, raked-back grille but everything else is either body-color or black tinted glass.

Its 0.29 coefficient of drag is among the lowest in its class and

TOM HAGIN
Solo Road Test

contributes to excellent fuel mileage and minimal wind noise at speed. Sixteen-inch double-spoke alloy wheels are standard, as are all-season 55-series tires and an integrated rear spoiler.

Inside: From the front bucket seats that feel perfectly tailored to fit the human body to the thick steering wheel, inside the sports coupe is a nice snug place to re-

side. It's also a safe place, with two-stage dual front airbags, side curtain airbags and door side airbags for all those seated onboard.

Electronically controlled seat belt tensioners are also standard and work in conjunction with Mercedes' award-winning crush protection and other built-in safety features.

The standard cloth upholstery of the C-Class feels rugged and durable, and grips the seat of the pants tenaciously under hard turns. Controls and switches are clearly visible, but somewhat busy to be

quickly learned. Other standard features include redundant steering wheel controls, power windows, outside mirrors and door locks, along with auto-dimming inside rear view and right side external mirrors.

Its optional Panorama sliding sunroof opens the entire top section to the elements.

On the Road: Where the C-Class sedans and wagons are powered by one of two different V-6 engines, the sports coupe offers but

See SOLO, Page D3

BOB HAGIN
Sports cars of yesteryear were simple vehicles

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Just after World War II, the unadorned qualifications to be a true sports car were relatively simple: The car had to be a street-legal member of the Car Club of America (SCCA) and a road racer that could be driven in ordinary traffic during the week. It had to have fenders, seat at least one passenger, carry a spare tire, provide space for weekend luggage (although not necessarily under the hood), carry a minimal windshield wiper, have at least one door (and that could be cloth) and a parking brake.

Obviously, being as light as possible was an asset and high-speed handling was of primary importance with comfort a secondary consideration.

Most of those pur sang sports cars were British and a few like the Morgan, Lotus and Jaguar were known to contemporary gearheads. Others aren't and following some of them:

Yellow: The Dellow of the early 1950s was a true British dual-purpose car, but it was built for a very different sport. British sporting cars are like our American autos except that they're held in muddy hillclimbs and the object is to make it to the top or to go as far as possible before bogging

See HAGIN Page D3

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ster used two- and three-cylinder motorcycle engines to motivate the 600-pound four-wheeler. They weren't popular here but those that got shipped over were usually raced in the smallest classes of amateur racing.

With a top speed of 65 mph, I'm told it was a knuckle-whittener to drive on the highway.

Frazer-Nash: Unrelated to either of the now-defunct American brands with the same names, the Frazer-Nash was a pre-war sports car maker that saw gold in the U.S. market in '48 and sent over Le Mans Replicas (the model designation) that also looked like a Grand Prix car with minimal fenders covering the wheels.

The company had a convoluted historical link to BMW and used a BMW based, Bristol-built 2.0-liter six-cylinder powerplant. It was the epitome of that early streetable race car persuasion and while there were several of them in our region, I never saw one with its top and side curtains in place.

The company also sent over some envelope bodied models but they weren't as pure as the Le Mans Replica.

Arnolt Bristol: "Wacky" Arnolt was a Chicago-area import car dealer who had lots of pull with continental automakers. In '56 he inveigled the Bristol Aeroplane Company and the Italian coach builder Bertone to put lightweight roadster bodies on Bristol auto chassis to produce a roadster that he modestly named after himself.

It used the same Bristol six cylinder engine as the AC Bristol and the Frazer-Nash, so their amateur race drivers enjoyed about the same amount of success.

Arnolt used the same formula on some MG models but they were more touring car than racer.

Elva: Roughly speaking, the word Elva means "she goes" in Spanish (ella va) and it's apropos.

While Elva Engineering Co built many cars that were strictly built for racing, its Courier model was streetable but it did and still does do well in production sports car racing.

The Courier chassis used a variety of Climax, Standard, Triumph and British Ford chassis and engine parts but the engine of choice in American owned Couriers was the MGA which rolled the 1,400-pound two-seater at a good clip.

Fairthorpe: The last Fairthorpe Electron I saw was a burned-out hulk that had been abandoned at the now-defunct sports car track at Cotati, Calif.

Although it used only the small Coventry Climax engine, the Electron was very much like the Elva Courier but not as well-known or made in as great numbers.

I think it was more popular in the eastern states than in the west and I only saw that single example. After old sports cars became venerated veterans and valuable, the burned-out Electron disappeared from the Cotati track.

AC: In its ancient history, the initials stood for Auto-Carriers its two-seater, John Tojeiro designed Ace roadster arrived here in '53 with an under-powered, antiquated 2.0-liter 90-horse six-cylinder AC engine.

The "Italian-ish" body was a classic and the car became a class winner in SCCA races when the company made a 110-horse BMW-based Bristol engine of the same size available in the Ace.

It got even faster when Carroll Shelby talked the company into selling him a handful of rollers in '62 into which he stuffed 260 cubic-inch Ford V8 engines and gearboxes and re-labeled it the AC Cobra. Its racing history is now legendary.

I may have omitted some of those old British simon-pure sports cars (the Austin-Healeys, for example) but there were lots of them and they were often produced by very small companies.

They'd never make it onto the market today because they'd be laughed out of the of-

Solo

FROM PAGE 1

one: a 2.3-liter inline four cylinder

It uses dual overhead cams, 16 valves and a supercharger to produce a healthy 192 horsepower and 200 pound-feet of torque.

It features platinum-tipped spark plugs that last 100,000 miles, and a Flexible Service System that measures the quality of the engine oil, both of which can increase the length of time between service visits, depending on how hard the car is driven.

Mated to this is either a six-speed manual transmission, which is great fun to use, or a five-speed automatic, which adapts to road grade by delaying upshifts on ascents for power or reducing upshifts on downgrades to leverage engine braking.

Mercedes' Electronic Stability Program (ESP) is standard, and can assist its driver in keeping the car on its intended path. Traction control, which reduces wheelspin on slippery surfaces, is also standard.

Behind the Wheel: The

sports coupe's front-engine, rear-wheel drive layout is an enthusiast's dream. Its stiff chassis perfectly complements the suspension layout, which includes a fully independent system with MacPherson struts up front and a multilink setup in back.

Both ends have anti-roll bars to keep it flat in corners, while designed-in deflection has been engineered into the suspension bushings to minimize vibration and harshness.

Power rack-and-pinion steering is boosted using a variable assist system which gives more road feel

at high speeds, but makes it easier to turn the wheel at slower speeds, such as while parking.

Braking is handled by large (11.8 inches in front; 11.4 inches in back) four-wheel discs with special cooling features to reduce brake fade during repeated heavy stops, along with a standard anti-lock braking system (ABS).

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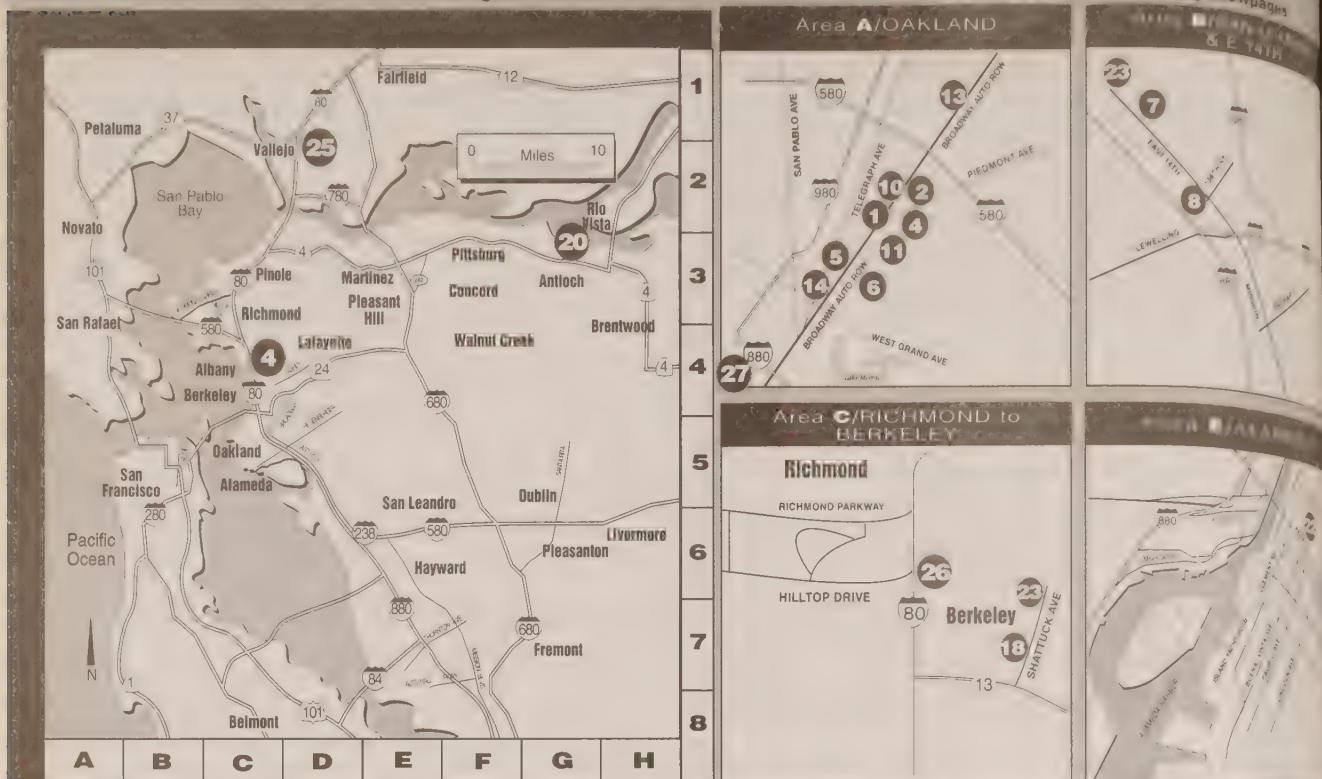
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For more information call
925-827-2000 and ask for
the JOB HOTLINE. EOE

250 Help Wanted

HOTEL
Marriott
San Ramon and
Pleasant Hill
...Restaurant Supervisor
...Housekeeper
...Aide/Security
...Security
...Cocktail Server
...P/T Bussers
...Room Service Operator
...Gatehouse Attendant
...We offer great benefits as
...well as career opportunities
...for a lifetime. EOE, M/F, D/V
...Please call or fax resumes
...to 925-434-2134 to set up an
...interview. EOE/M/F/D/V

250 Help Wanted

HOTEL
HOUSECLEANER
Help Main clean homes. No
...night work. No car req.
...We train. 925-837-7137

250 Help Wanted

HOUSECLEANER
Need immediate. P/T. 925-949-4702

250 Help Wanted

HOUSECLEANERS:
...pleasants, clean, disas-
...semble, 925-540-5400
...bono, hiring now, no nights
...Awards, good pay/bonus
...Call (910) 424-1255

250 Help Wanted

HOUSEKEEPER FT. (M-F)
Position in pleasant sur-
roundings at upscale resort
community for active
seniors. Benefits. Apply at
Constitution 1580 Geary Rd., W.C.

250 Help Wanted

HUMAN RESOURCES
ANALYST
\$4139 - \$5632/MO
Seeking highly motivated
...with experience in
...Resources, professional
...wasteful knowledge of
...Workers, Comp. and
...ADA. Regs. 3000, 3000
...and related college and
...university work in Business
...and Public Administration
...closely related field, and 18
...mos exp in an administra-
...tive department. Must
...responsibility for the analy-
...sis of departmental pro-
...cesses and actions performing
...technical personnel work
...and substitutions accepted.
Fax Resumes to: M. Lerner
at 925-434-2134 or 925-434-2134

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HUMAN RESOURCES**
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\$4139 - \$5632/MO
Seeking highly motivated
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Fax Resumes to: M. Lerner
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250 Help Wanted

**HYDRONIC HVAC
TECHNICIANS**
F/T Ideal Service Co. offers
...experience, 401K, profit
...share, auto. acc'ts./training/mo-
...bility. You're Truly Worth
...Call Darlene 925-521-2000
...or fax res. 925-521-0052

250 Help Wanted

INSTALLER/ASST.
Intercom, video & sound.
...Clean DMV. P/T. Benefits.
...Will train right person.
...Growth potential. Please
...fax resume: 510-935-1352

250 Help Wanted

**YOUR MOST
CONVENIENT
SHOPPING CENTER
IS CLASSIFIEDS**

250 Help Wanted

~ INSURANCE JOB FAIR ~
**LIVERMORE
Call Center**
Tuesday,
December 11
2:00 PM - 5 PM
1265 Kitty Hawk Road
Livermore, CA
Insurance Service Specialists
Come join our Call Center team as an Insurance
Service Specialist. You will be responsible for
maintaining current auto insurance policies via
telephone, including renewals and changes. You
will also recommend coverages, services and products
where needed.
Salary commensurate with experience. Candidates
must be available to work flexible hours, Monday -
Saturday.
1 year prior experience in personal lines insurance
environment preferred. Strong telephone comm. for
interpersonal and customer service skills required.
We offer an excellent compensation & benefits
package with excellent opportunity for advancement
~ Immediate interviews available for qualified applicants ~

250 Help Wanted

INSURANCE
...if you are unable to attend,
...please fax resume to:
925-435-9358 or apply on line
at www.cscsa.com

250 Help Wanted

YOU can get there from here
California State Automobile Association is an equal opportunity
employer and strives to hire individuals as diverse as the
communities we serve.

250 Help Wanted

INSURANCE
Administrative Asst.
East Bay... insurance broker...
...Admin. Asst. Must have
...experience & Customer
...Service. Excellent compensation
...and benefits package.
Send your resume to:
PO Box 5608 Walnut
Creek, CA 94598 or e-mail:
johnc@heffgroup.com

250 Help Wanted

INSURANCE
**BE A PART OF
SOMETHING GREAT!**
We are currently seeking
...licensed life and
...with a financial sales
...Along with a base
...salary, incentive compensation,
...benefits, growth opportunities,
...training programs, you can help others
...help themselves (don't be
...independent). For more information
...please call now for an
...appointment. EOE, M/F, D/V
...Call: 925-933-2020

250 Help Wanted

INSURANCE
You have Exper.
...in Comm'l or Personal
...Lines. We currently have num-
...bers of temp-temp-hire &
...Contractors for every 3.
...Licensed/Unlicensed
...Account Manager/Asst.
...Producer
...We offer excellent salary
...and benefits. Please call
...925-274-0222, Attn: Mark
...Call: 925-933-2020

250 Help Wanted

INSURANCE
INSURE-Staff
...Insurance: F & C Produc-
...ers wanted, will split broker
...commissions. Many
...companies to choose from.
Call (925) 603-6820.

250 Help Wanted

INSURANCE
PERSONAL LINE Dept.
...Licensed CSR required.
...wasteful computer skills.
...Call: 925-935-0486
...Fax: 925-935-0486

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250 Help Wanted

LABOR
INDUSTRIAL SERVICES
...support needed
...Required valid ID and
...training. Request: BAC
...trucking, but willing to train
...Apply Delta Tech Service
...PO Box 5608 Walnut
...Creek, CA 94598 or e-mail:
...johnc@heffgroup.com

250 Help Wanted

LANDSCAPE Contractor
Awarding winning Indus-
...trial company seeks assistant
...to owner in creating new
...and managing existing gar-
...dens. Clear DMV. Exp. in
...skills, knowledge of general
...managing, including in-
...stalling, planning & minor
...improvement repair. 9
...a.m. to 5 p.m. or fax 510-824-9998-4

250 Help Wanted

LANDSCAPING
Immediate Opening/
...Landscape Construction
...Technicians. Experience
...Required 925-937-2555

250 Help Wanted

LAUNDRY/ASST.
Washroom AM shift FT. No
...car req. Will train. Good
...benefits. Apply in person 925
...Mason Cir. Exp. G Concord
...Call: 925-933-2020

250 Help Wanted

LEGAL SECRETARY
Walnut Creek Counsel
...for Travelers

250 Help Wanted

Travelers
Seeks two secretaries with
...5-6 years experience for
...each. Must have excellent
...grammar and organizational
...skills. Pleasant work
...environment with competitive
...salary. Make 925-434-2134
...Call: 925-933-2020

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250 Help Wanted

LOAN PROCESSOR - SR.
If communication, growth
...potential, stability and
...teamwork are important
...to you, join our team
...to work in a friendly,
...high energy, growing
...organization. Please
...send your resume to:
...PO Box 5608 Walnut
...Creek, CA 94598 or e-mail:
...johnc@heffgroup.com

250 Help Wanted

LOANS
Senior Credit Officer
Senior Credit Officer
...Westernamerica's Regional
...Credit Administration is
...seeking a professional indi-
...vidual to review complex
...loans for establishment of
...commercial loans &
...credit lines, collect & ana-
...lyze financial & related in-
...formation, determine gen-
...eral credit worthiness of the
...clients, & review the mar-
...kets of the loan portfolio. He
...will prepare financial sum-
...maries, approve or decline
...loans within assigned lim-
...its, prepare recommendations
...for loan amounts, and
...above identified credit au-
...thority, investigate all avail-
...able sources of credit in fi-
...nancial information &
...manage assigned loan
...portfolios. This position re-
...quires extensive lending
...exp. in a variety of complex
...commercial credit re-
...quests, knowledge of
...banking regulations, busi-
...ness law, and a strong com-
...municative ability and strong
...customer service skills. A
...Bachelor's degree in Busi-
...ness Administration, Finan-
...cial, or related field is re-
...quired. Please send your re-
...sume to: 1111 Olive Dr.,
...Alameda, CA 94601. Fax
...925-933-0557

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For more information please phone:
 Contra Costa County area: 925-933-2020
 Contra Costa County area: 925-462-9260

bayarea.com/careerbuilder

To advertise please phone:
 West Contra Costa County area: 510-758-0500
 East Contra Costa County area: 925-779-9566

250 Help Wanted

PLUMBER/SERVICE & REPAIR
 • Only Great pay/benefits
 Call Jan at (925) 783-0922

PLUMBERS: Journeyman & Foreman w/ good skills, 10-12 hrs. 1st shift. \$18.00/hr. + benefits. Call (925) 783-0922

PLUMBERS/Trainers: Paid Training, 40 hrs/week. \$18.00/hr. + benefits. Call (925) 783-0922

PLUMBING TECH
 Fast growing co. has immediate openings for experienced plumbers. Must have own truck/van. (510) 222-8871

POOL TECH
 Reliable only, clean DMV, will train. (510) 222-8871

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
 On-site manager for 100-unit apartment complex. Must be organized, detail oriented, and able to work independently. Salary: \$18.00/hr. + benefits. Call (925) 783-0922

PROPERTY MGMT. ADMIN. ASSISTANT
 REEF, national real estate investment company, is seeking Admin. Asst. & Property Mgmt. Asst. for Bay Area. Exp. in property mgmt., operations, facilities, and customer service. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

RAIL OPERATIONS
 National railroad company looking for PT help forming rail car switching. Interested individuals should fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATE
 Associate for local office of National Real Estate. Must be willing to work hard, be trained, and have a strong desire to succeed. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

REAL ESTATE SALES
 We want you to join our team. Quick licensing & training. Call Karen at (925) 998-9600

FREE TRAINING!
 Quick licensing & training. Call Karen at (925) 998-9600

RECEPTION/CHILDREN
 Linda Evans Fitness Center, Alameda, CA. Receptionist/Child Care. (925) 884-1000

RECEPTIONIST/ADMIN. ASST.
 E Bay Mkt. Corp. Must enjoy children. Computer skills. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

RECEPTIONIST
 Admin. Asst. office. Computer, office equip., & phone experience. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

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250 Help Wanted

RECEPTIONIST MAIN OFFICE
 Looking for energetic, dynamic person with strong communication skills. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

RECEPTIONIST
 WC Inc. Firm needs sharp, energetic person to assist in reception. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

RECEPTIONIST
 PT including a Sat. Apply 1555 San Miguel Dr. Walnut Creek 925-933-5555

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250 Help Wanted

RESTAURANT
Chevy's
FRESH MEX
 Is that Guacamole on your Resume?
 Fax 510-768-1330
 resume@chevys.com

SALES
 ADT Dealer, largest home security co. expanding again in Concord. Seven upstate. Must have sales experience. Sales exp. - A - but not necessary. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

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250 Help Wanted

Management Trainee
SLEEP TRIN, INC.
 \$12 - \$15 hour
 Starting Training Wage
 \$12 - \$15 hour
 Will Train/Exp. Nec.
 Great Entry Position
 Call Victor (510) 589-9636
 v@sleeptrain.com

SALES
MANCINI'S SLEEPWORK
 The Bay Area's Best Place To Buy A Mattress
 Has immediate full time openings for Sales Associates. We offer a positive work environment, paid training, and a \$70K income potential. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

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 ADT Dealer, largest home security co. expanding again in Concord. Seven upstate. Must have sales experience. Sales exp. - A - but not necessary. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

250 Help Wanted

SECURITY
GUARDSMARK
 NO EXP. REQUIRED
 STARTING UP TO \$10/Hr
 Now Hiring for Pleasanton, Hayward, Alameda, Emeryville, and San Francisco. Must be 21, HS Grad/GED. No Criminal Convictions. Apply Sat. 10-12 noon at 4713 First Street #235. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

SECURITY
 Guardsmark is the largest Employer of former FBI agents in the world. EOE MF.

SECURITY
 Consider a career with Guardsmark. Paid Training, Benefits, Flexible Work Hours. 10 Full Time, 12 Part Time. Office Locations: Refines, Walnut Creek, Concord, Martinez, Brentwood, San Francisco, Alameda, Antioch, Clayton.

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 Consider a career with Guardsmark. Paid Training, Benefits, Flexible Work Hours. 10 Full Time, 12 Part Time. Office Locations: Refines, Walnut Creek, Concord, Martinez, Brentwood, San Francisco, Alameda, Antioch, Clayton.

250 Help Wanted

SOCIAL SERVICES
 A growing crisis program supporting individuals who are developmentally disabled. Experiencing crisis in the community has two positions for creative, motivated individuals who are looking for a strong leader who has a Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science, supervision experience with individuals who are developmentally disabled to serve as Program Coordinator in addition we are looking for someone who can provide direct service as a Crisis Worker in the community who possesses a degree in a related field and experience working with this population. Both positions require clean background checks, pre-employment testing, competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to: (925) 998-9600

SOCIAL WORKER
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Shopping Plus

Friday, December 14, 2001

Look inside for local advertising circulars every Friday

Frozen assets: Freeze cookies or dough now to ease stress of holiday baking

BY CAROL J.G. WARD
OF THE BAY AREA NEWS-STAR

When people who haven't seen the inside of a kitchen in months probably be found up to their waists in dough as cookie season arrives.

Smart cookies can ease the stress of holiday baking with up-to-date preparation. Most cookies and cookie dough freezes well, so you can freeze and refrigerate for pending holiday treats.

Start your baking early at a leisurely pace. Then pop the finished products in the freezer for storage.

Most cookies cool completely before freezing them. To keep them from becoming soggy, wrap them individually and write the date and type of cookie on the outside of the package. Or freeze cookies in plastic containers with parchment paper between layers.

Shallow containers are best for freezing cookies. Using a deep container will tempt you to stack too many layers, and those on the bottom may get crushed. Stack cookies no more than three layers deep. Most cookies can be frozen for several months, avoiding meringue cookies or sandwich cookies with moist fillings. You can freeze the baked cookies and sandwich cookies and put them together with the fillings later.

Most cookies take only minutes to defrost for a freshly baked cookie. Pop them in the microwave for about 30 seconds. The time will vary depending on the type of cookie you're defrosting.

Most cookies lose their crispness when baked in a sheet in a regular oven for a few minutes. Most cookie doughs also freeze for up to six weeks. Cookie doughs that freeze best are shortbread, chocolate chip, peanut butter, and sugar. Doughs that do not freeze well include cake cookies and cookies such as

madeleines and tuiles.

As with freezing cookies, the most important thing to keep in mind is that the dough will absorb any odd odors present in your freezer if it's not double-wrapped and sealed.

Write the type of cookie dough and the date it was frozen on the outside of the package.

When you are ready to bake, simply let the dough defrost in the refrigerator. This will take several hours or overnight, so plan ahead.

We've included recipes for cookies that freeze well baked or as dough. To produce the perfect cookie, use these tips for successful holiday baking:

Planning

■ To reduce your baking load, organize a cookie exchange or combine baking efforts with a friend.

■ Plan to do all your baking in one day. You'll have less cleanup, and you'll be able to focus just on baking.

■ Make a shopping list, and check it twice to avoid running back and forth to the store.

Purchase large quantities of basic ingredients such as flour, sugars and butter in advance.

Ingredients

■ Read the entire recipe and prepare ingredients ahead of time, such as softening butter or chopping and toasting nuts.

■ For baking success, butter must be softened, yet slightly firm. To soften butter quickly, remove from the refrigerator and pound the wrapped stick several times on each side with a rolling pin.

■ Use the proper measuring cups for liquid and dry ingredients.

Equipment

■ Use a pastry cloth to make rolling dough easier and keep it from sticking. Rubbing flour over the pastry cloth and rolling pin also makes for easier handling.

■ Use a shiny, aluminum cookie sheet that is open on the sides for evenly browned cookies.

■ Use at least two cookie sheets so you can rotate them in and out of the oven.

■ Dual-layered or air cushion cookie sheets allow air to better circulate under the cookie-baking surface for more even cooking and fewer burned bottoms.

Because these pans may not get as hot as standard baking sheets, you may want to increase baking time by a minute or two or increase baking temperature by a few degrees.

Give cookies a first run at the temperature and time indicated in the recipe. Then adjust if necessary.

■ For no-stick cookies and quick cleanup, line the sheets with parchment paper. This paper is coated on each side, usually with silicone, and comes on a roll like wax paper. Just tear off a strip of parchment and place it on the baking sheet. Your baked cookies will lift off the parchment with ease.

You can reuse a sheet several times when making multiple batches of cookies.

■ For drop cookies, a cookie scoop is worth the two bucks. Made like a miniature ice cream scoop, the cookie dropper has a metal scraper that dumps the dough onto the pan. Not only does it keep cookie dough off your fingers, but you also end up with uniform-sized cookies.

Troubleshooting

■ If your cookies are crumbling, most likely the dough is too dry. Try adding a tablespoon or two of cream or milk to the dough.

■ Avoid cookies that spread into each other by baking a test cookie. A spreading cookie is usually a sign of soft dough. Try adding one or two tablespoons of flour, or refrigerate dough until it is well-chilled (1 to 2 hours).



NOW THAT THE HOLIDAY BAKING SEASON is upon us, ease the stress ahead of time with make-and-freeze cookies and dough.



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WHY?

Because the closing of the Birthing unit at Mt. Diablo Medical Center has caused:

OVER-CROWDING at John Muir Medical Center

- An E-mail 6/18/01 from Ken Anderson, President and CEO of John Muir in discussing the closure of the Birthing unit at Mt. Diablo states, "Meanwhile JM has NO Capacity".
- Former Chief of Staff at John Muir Medical Center, Marion Scott MD stated in a hospital newsletter dated November of 2000, "As patient census continues to grow, we continue to see needs for more space, for example in obstetrics, the emergency department, and the outpatient lab." This was published before the addition of Mt. Diablo's over 800 births and almost 4000 gynecological procedures.

OVER-CROWDING puts all women at risk!

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Fastest cookies — bar none

BY NATALIE HAUGHTON
LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

You're in a hurry. The holidays are closing in, but don't give up the baking.

If you turn your kitchen into a cookie factory for an evening or afternoon and opt for quick and easy bar cookies, you can turn out lots of fashionable, creative and delicious treasures in a jiffy without much effort. There's no individual shaping or dropping of doughs. Bars are the speediest cookies to make and the simplest for beginners.

Some bars sport just a single layer while others feature a bottom crust along with a topping — and in some cases there are a trio of layers with a filling in between.

After baking, you can cut them into a variety of shapes — bars, squares, fingers or triangles — large and small. You can even use cookie cutters.

"One feature I like most about bar cookies is that they lend themselves to endless variations," says Carole Bloom, author of "Cookies for Dummies" (Hungry Minds; \$19.95), which includes 100 recipes.

You can add chocolate chips, nuts, toffee bits or dried fruits or sprinkle the batter with coconut or nuts before baking. After baking you could spread the bars with different melted chocolates and top with crushed candies like toffee, peanut brittle and the like. Even crushed peppermint candies would be a festive touch during the holidays.

Nancy Baggett includes a fast no-bake bar cookie in her new "The All-American Cookie Book" (Houghton Mifflin; \$35). Loaded with peanuts and chocolate, it's attractive and offers a lot of appeal with relatively little work.

"The bar cookie is a fairly modern concept. The first famous bar that anyone in the U.S. would find familiar is the brownie (a clearly American invention) which appeared in a 1906 edition of the "The Boston Cooking-School Cook Book," Baggett says.

In the '20s, blondies showed up, but the bulk of the modern bar inventions started and became popular in the average cook's repertoire in the late '40s.

A boon for holiday cooks, bar cookies also travel well — to potlucks, cookie parties and holiday gatherings. In fact, they're great for many occasions — and run the gamut from sturdy basics to elegant, more impressive selections.

Bar cookies make festive hostess or holiday gifts when presented in attractive baskets, canisters, wooden or cardboard boxes, tins, cookie jars, Chinese takeout boxes, pails and all sorts of other packaging possibilities. Look for containers at places like Cost Plus World Market, Pier 1,

drugstores, discount stores and even supermarkets. You can even present them in a baking pan.

Use cutup pieces of holiday fabrics, dish towels or festive cloth napkins as liners along with doilies or seasonal tissue papers. Just make sure the cookies are wrapped or overwrapped in plastic bags or plastic wrap and not directly exposed to the liners. Gussy up the containers by wrapping in cellophane and tying with colorful ribbons and a cooking utensil or holiday decoration. If you feel inclined, include a copy of the recipe. Also be sure to specify the name of the cookie(s) enclosed along with any storing or serving suggestions.

CHOCOLATE-PECAN CARAMEL CANDY BARS

Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chilled unsalted butter

Topping:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans OR walnuts

Line a 9x13-inch baking pan with foil; grease foil. To make Crust, in a food processor or bowl, combine flour and sugar and pulse briefly or stir to mix. Add butter and process or mix until crumbly. Transfer to prepared pan and pat evenly onto bottom of pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 12 minutes. Transfer pan to a rack. Leave oven set at 350 degrees.

Meanwhile, make Topping: In saucepan, heat butter over low heat until it melts and bubbles. Add brown sugar, honey, cream and maple syrup and bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Let boil without stirring 1 minute. Pour over hot crust and sprinkle evenly with nuts.

Return pan to oven and bake 12 to 15 minutes, or until caramel layer is bubbly. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate chips. Let melt 1 to 2 minutes, then swirl with a spatula. Let cool completely. Invert baked sheet onto a rack, lift off pan, and peel off foil. Cut into 1 1/2x2-inch bars. Store between sheets of waxed paper in an airtight container up to 1 week. Makes about 40.

From "The Christmas Cookie Book," by Lou Seibert Pappas.

CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE SQUARES

- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar



JAMES F. QUINN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BARs ARE THE SPEEDIEST COOKIES to make and the simplest for beginners. They are also ideal for shipping long distances.

- 2 sticks (8 ounces) butter, cut into pieces and softened, plus 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 2/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/3 cup light corn syrup
- 3 cups chopped pecans

To make crust, in a food processor, combine flour and 1/2 cup granulated sugar. Add 2 sticks softened butter and process until mixture is in fine crumbs. With machine on, add egg and 2 teaspoons vanilla through feed tube. Process just until dough leaves sides of bowl and masses together.

Press dough evenly over bottom of a foil-lined 10x15-inch jelly-roll pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 15 to 17 minutes or just until golden. Remove from oven and sprinkle evenly with chocolate chips. Return to oven 1 to 2 minutes to melt chips. Spread melted chocolate over crust.

In a large bowl, combine remaining 3/4 cup granulated sugar, brown sugar, cream, corn syrup, remaining 3 tablespoons melted butter and remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla. Mix well. Stir in pecans. Carefully spoon pecan topping over chocolate on crust, distributing evenly.

Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 25 to 30 minutes or until golden. Let cool in pan 1 hour before cutting into 54 squares. Makes 54.

From "365 Great Chocolate Desserts," by Natalie Haughton

NO-BAKE PEANUT BUTTER-CHOCOLATE CRUNCH BARS

- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- 2/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, cut into chunks
- 1/3 cup light corn syrup
- 4 1/2 cups corn flakes, coarsely crushed
- 1 cup chopped peanuts, preferably unsalted
- 3/4 cup shredded OR flaked sweetened coconut (optional)
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup (6 ounces) miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Generously grease a 9x13-inch baking pan or coat with nonstick spray. In a large, heavy saucepan, thoroughly stir together peanut butter, brown sugar, butter and corn syrup. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, and boil, stirring constantly, 1 minute.

Remove from heat. Stir in corn flakes, 2/3 cup peanuts, coconut and vanilla until evenly incorporated. Turn out mixture into baking pan, spreading to edges. Immediately sprinkle chocolate chips over top; let stand until melted. Using a table knife, spread melted chocolate evenly over top. Sprinkle remaining 1/3 cup peanuts over chocolate.

Refrigerate until chocolate completely sets, about 30 minutes, or freeze about 15 minutes to speed chilling. Using a large, sharp knife, cut into 24 bars. Store in an airtight container up to 1 week or freeze up to 1 month. Makes 24 bars.

From "The All-American Cookie Book," by Nancy Baggett.

ORIENTAL CRUNCH

- 1 cup butter
- 2 tablespoons instant coffee powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 (6-ounce) package semisweet chocolate pieces
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped almonds

Beat together butter, coffee powder, salt, almond extract and vanilla until well blended. Gradually beat in sugar. Beat in flour. By hand, stir in chocolate pieces. Spread mixture in ungreased 15x10-inch jelly-roll pan. Sprinkle almonds over top, pressing in lightly with hands. Bake

Cookie care packages deliver holiday cheer

BY LAUREN CHAPIN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

A care package of cookies is always a welcome holiday gift. But this year it's best to practice common sense.

Although it pains us to say this: Mexican wedding cookies or Russian tea cakes — or any other cookie rolled in a cloud of powdered sugar — probably are not the best choice this year, given recent terrorism concerns.

Instead, choose cookies that are sturdy, at least 1/4-inch thick. Obviously some shapes ship better than others. Mail the bells, not the stars. And those cute reindeer with antlers? Forget about 'em.

Cookies that are firm but moist will travel best. Keep in mind that climate counts. If you're planning to send cookies to our military troops, shipping chocolate chip cookies to the desert may not be a good choice. Also factor in shipping time. Mailing nut cookies, which can go rancid on the slow boat to the Netherlands, isn't advised.

Nancy Baggett, author of "The All-American Cookie Cookbook" (Houghton Mifflin, 2001), offers the following method for shipping cookies anywhere around the world:

In preheated 375-degree oven, 20 to 22 minutes. Watch closely as mixture burns easily. Cool. Cut into bars or break into irregular pieces. Makes 1 3/4 pounds.

This recipe came from reader Lois Greenjack, Altadena, many years ago and was one of the winners in a Daily News holiday cookie contest.

CHOCOLATE NUT SQUARES

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 (12-ounce) package semisweet chocolate pieces
- 1 (12-ounce) can salted mixed nuts

Mix brown sugar, 1 cup butter, vanilla and egg in a large bowl. Stir in flour. Spread evenly in bottom of ungreased 13x9x2-inch rectangular pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 20 to 22 minutes, until light brown. Cool 20 minutes.

Heat corn syrup, remaining 2 tablespoons butter and chocolate pieces over low heat, stirring constantly, until pieces are melted. Cool 20 minutes.

Spread chocolate mixture over cookies in pan. Sprinkle with nuts. Gently press into chocolate. Refrigerate uncovered until chocolate is firm, about 2 hours. Cut into 1 1/2-inch squares. Makes 48.

From "Betty Crocker's Smart Cook."

CHOCOLATE CRUMB BARS

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter OR margarine, softened
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 (12-ounce) package semisweet chocolate chips (2 cups)
- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk) 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Beat butter in a large mixer bowl until creamy. Beat in flour, sugar and salt until crumbly. With floured fingers, press 2 cups crumb mixture onto bottom of a greased 13x9-inch baking pan; reserve remaining mixture. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 10 to 12 minutes or until edges are golden brown.

Combine 1 cup chips and

■ Wrap each unit in its own separate layer of plastic parcel in bubble wrap. Put all the packages in Styrofoam peanuts in a large plastic bag. If shipping by air, use a large plastic bag, a water-proof box, again in a large plastic bag, protected from the elements.

■ We also checked with postal authorities and dates to keep in mind: Christmas arrives on Dec. 25. For APO and FPO mail, for Africa and the Middle East, Dec. 3, most other countries, Dec. 10. Canada, Dec. 15.

■ Remember that some do not allow nuts, so do not include them in what counts as mail. What counts as mail? The Post Office's Web site at www.usps.gov Click on rate calculator and click on international mail.

sweetened condensed milk, vanilla and egg in a large bowl. Stir in flour. Spread evenly in bottom of ungreased 13x9x2-inch rectangular pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 20 to 22 minutes, until light brown. Cool 20 minutes.

Heat corn syrup, remaining 2 tablespoons butter and chocolate pieces over low heat, stirring constantly, until pieces are melted. Cool 20 minutes.

Spread chocolate mixture over cookies in pan. Sprinkle with nuts. Gently press into chocolate. Refrigerate uncovered until chocolate is firm, about 2 hours. Cut into 1 1/2-inch squares. Makes 48.

From "Betty Crocker's Smart Cook."

Place apricots and walnuts in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and simmer 10 minutes, until softened. Drain, let cool and set aside.

To make Crust, mix butter and flour and pulse in a food processor. Add butter and pulse with an electric mixer. Pat into prepared pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt chocolate in a microwave, beat in light in color. Beat in salt and Amaretto. In another bowl, mix together flour, sugar, eggs and salt. Add to egg mixture and mix in nuts and apricots.

Remove Crust from oven. Spread Topping evenly. Return to oven and bake 25 to 30 minutes or until golden.

Transfer pan to a rack and with powdered sugar, dust top of squares. Store in an airtight container up to 1 week. Makes 4 dozen.

From "The Christmas Cookie Book," by Lou Seibert Pappas.

Tips for cookie-making success from cookie maven, Nancy Baggett

BY KRISTIN EDDY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Homemade cookies often look simple, but the good ones take know-how culled from long experience in baking.

A real cookie maven is Nancy Baggett, who tested almost 30,000 to come up with the recipes for her new "The All-American Cookie Book" (Houghton Mifflin, \$35).

Here, adapted from the chapter on "How to Make Great Cookies Every Single Time," are some tips for doing your best work yet in the kitchen:

■ Measure, don't guess. In baking, accuracy really counts. For measuring liquids, use transparent or 1- or 2-cup marked measuring

cups. Set the cup on a flat surface. For measuring dry ingredients, graduated cups make it easy to obtain the exact amount needed by leveling off with the sweep of a long-bladed spatula or knife, rather than just judging by sight.

■ Read (and follow!) directions. Prepare the recipe exactly as it is written at least once before making any changes. Pay particular attention to what temperature ingredients should be, because this can have a major effect on baking success.

Follow the instructions on mixing procedures and the order for adding ingredients.

■ Beware of substitutions. Semisweet chocolate blocks and semi-

sweet chocolate morsels are often not interchangeable.

Blocks and morsels were designed for different purposes; manufacturers intend for semisweet chocolate blocks to be used melted, so these generally melt smoothly and are fairly fluid.

Chocolate chips are designed to hold their shape when heated, so are usually stiff when melted.

■ Butter and regular stick margarine are sometimes interchangeable; butter and tub-style, light or diet margarine are never interchangeable.

■ Granulated sugar and brown sugar are rarely interchangeable. Brown sugar is moister, heavier and coarser than granulated sugar, so it will also change the cookie's texture.

■ The Clueless Baker: Baking

Clueless about cookies? Web site and new books might help

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Whether you're a novice cook nervous about your first cookie exchange or a veteran looking for new ideas, help is close at hand. The annual Land O'Lakes Holiday Bake-line will answer your baking questions through Dec. 24. Get help online at www.landolakes.com or call 800-782-9606.

Plenty of new cookbooks come to the rescue, too. Check these out: ■ "In the Sweet Kitchen: The Definitive Baker's Companion" (Artisan, \$35 hardback) by Regan Daley. The International Association of Culinary Professionals chose this exhaustive book as the 2001 Cookbook of the Year. Daley explains every baking ingredient, sugar, fats, starches, eggs, flour, fruits, nuts, spices and flavorings. Although many cookbooks include chapters on tools and ingredients, "In the Sweet Kitchen" begins with almost 400 pages of descriptions of ingredients. Daley discusses how to choose them, use them and why

they do the things they do. Her collection of 150 recipes follows.

■ "Basic Baking: All You Need to Bake Well Simply" (Silverback Books, \$20 paperback). Where "In the Sweet Kitchen" is thorough, "Basic Baking" is hip. Using gimmicks such as "The Sweet 14" (things that make baking better) and "The Smart 16" (things that baking won't work without), the book is targeted for college-age to thirtysomething cooks.

■ "The Clueless Baker: Baking

from Scratch Easy as Pie" (Firefly Books, \$12.95 paperback) by Evelyn Raab. In tone and volume of information, this book falls between the previous two. Raab, author of the "Cooking with Kids" column in Today's Parent magazine, presents information and recipes in a fun format, such as her 11-step baking program. She also offers simple explanations of the cooking process, a troubleshooting guide and recipes with easy-to-follow directions.

■ "Cookies for Dummies" (Hun-

gry Minds, \$19.99 paperback) by Carole Bloom. We're all familiar with the format of the Dummies books. This is a version for baking cookies.

■ If it's just recipes you're looking for, Pillsbury has released a soft-cover cookbook, "Holiday Cookies and Candies." It's just \$3.95 and is available at grocery stores, Kmart, Target and Wal-Mart. To order by mail, send \$4.50 to Pillsbury Publications, Department 8077, P.O. Box 2063, Harlan, IA 51539.

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A cook's wish list for the holidays: pots and pans and a whole lot more

BY RUTH FANTASIA

ALBANY, N.Y. — Pry your wallet for your pocket for new cookware. The pots and pans we now use and work as well as when we opened that wedding gift so long ago. But I'm tired of burning instead of toasting. I yearn for the even heating, hard anodized aluminum.

AN EIGHT-PIECE set of Calphalon cookware

I want a riveter like Rosie to have attached the handles. I crave Calphalon Commercial cookware. A 10-piece set sells for \$450 at Boscov's and other department stores and kitchen shops. Won't let the wallet open quite that far? A seven-piece set is \$290. (P.S.: Don't buy the kind with the nonstick coating; it costs more, and if you cook properly, you don't need it.)

More may be better when it comes to cookware, but bigger isn't better when it comes to food processors. Grating carrots for salads and cakes, chopping chocolate and making superfine sugar don't require a big container. I'd probably use it more if the ingredients didn't spew out between the lid and the bowl and the blades fit

on the spindle correctly.

Cuisinart brought food processors to the forefront years ago and its seven-cup model remains a favorite. It may not have that modern techno look and a lot of bells and whistles, but it's efficient, lightweight and small enough to go into a cabinet when it's not needed. It's at Macy's, and other department and kitchen stores, for \$99.

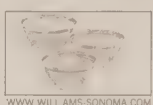


TRIED BUT TRUE, Cuisinart seven-cup model.

Speaking of things that don't work too well, the colander is at the top of my list. The holes in it are too few and too small. I've had root canals in less time than it takes to drain a pot of pasta.

Williams-Sonoma has nifty colanders made of mesh so fine you can drain small items such as rice and barley in them. They're made of stainless steel and have raised bottoms. They come in sizes ranging from 8 to 11 inches in diameter. Prices range from \$12 to \$18.

WIRE MESH colanders in three sizes.



WWW.WILLIAMS-SONOMA.COM

While you're there, it would be nice to have a new cutting board. One of those big wooden ones with deep gutters around the sides to catch the juices when you carve a roast. Williams-Sonoma has some great ones, with one flat side and one side that is indented to hold a turkey securely. Prices range from \$45 to \$89, depending on size.

Bed Bath & Beyond has bundles of five, oversized, all cotton towels for \$9.99. And get this, each one has a tab on the back so you can hang it in the kitchen, or the garage where I suspect they all end up.

A classy new French memo board. No push pins required, just slip a note or photo under the ribbon. They cost \$26.50.

Stuff my stocking with wooden

spoons and rubber spatulas. The latter come in cool colors and heavy-duty materials that won't melt in hot water. They're available nearly everywhere in a variety of prices.

And you know how I've always wanted to make a Yule Log for Christmas? A new jelly-roll pan and baking mat. The commercial-grade pan, made by Chicago Metallic, is heavy and thick so it won't warp or twist and it's only \$15.99.

And a baking mat to go in the pan prevents the cake from sticking and also can be used for rolling out sticky doughs and candy. It can reuse it up to 3,000 times. It's \$20.

Of course to serve this Yule Log at our holiday feast you'll have to let me open some presents early May 1? Please?

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Don't worry about making fancy hors d'oeuvres, try these simple recipes instead

BY JANE SNOW

KNAUTH HODDGENSWORTH

The potluck party season is just starting and already your schedule is frayed. We scrounged the stores for quick fixes and came home with a sack full of dough: refrigerated biscuits, frozen puff pastry, frozen bread dough and chilled pie-dough disks. Armed with all this convenience, we created recipes for snappy party hors d'oeuvres that will look and taste as if you've slaved for hours.

Remember the old party nosh of dates wrapped with bacon and broiled until crisp? Sweet and salty is still a winner, but instead of fussing with toothpicks and broiler pans, we chopped the dates and bacon and wrapped them in wedges of pie-crust dough. The result is a sweet and savory rugelach (a classic rolled cookie), perfect for pairing with cocktails or egg nog.

The date-bacon mixture can be chopped in a food processor. It is then scattered over one of those flat pie-dough rounds sold in packages of two in the supermarket dairy case. A pizza wheel (or a sharp paring knife) is used to cut the disk into 16 wedges. Starting at the large ends, the wedges are rolled up cigar-style, creating a tapered, cookie-like shape. The filling oozes temptingly around the edges as the hors d'oeuvres bake.

We eyed the biscuit can, then threw canned corned beef, sauerkraut and shredded Swiss cheese into a bowl. The mashed-up filling is dolloped onto half of a biscuit that has been patted and stretched into a 4-inch circle — no need to use a rolling pin. The circles are folded into half-moons and sealed with egg white, then baked.

Our little turnovers look like empanadas but taste like reubens.

They're equally good warm and at room temperature.

Our bread-dough appetizer is pure fun. It's bubble bread that is savory rather than sweet. Instead of rolling walnut-size balls of dough in sugar and nuts, we rolled them in taco seasonings and Parmesan cheese. The balls are piled into an angel-food cake pan and interspersed with chopped green chilies and shredded Cheddar cheese.

During baking, the dough balls fuse together into a high, handsome loaf of bread that can be pulled apart easily. At the party, the warm, taco-flavored bread is placed on a serving platter, and party-goers just pull off chunks.

Puff pastry is a versatile dough that can be used to create dozens of hors d'oeuvres. We turned it into brie kisses — individual, bite-size baked bries in puff pastry.

In the traditional recipe, puff pastry dough is wrapped around a whole wheel of brie cheese and baked. It is served on a tray with crackers and a knife for spreading.

Our version does away with the crackers and the knife. Puff pastry sheets are cut into small squares and eased into mini muffin tin cups, with the points of the pastry sticking straight up. Tiny cubes of chilled brie are snuggled into the cavity and topped with hot-pepper jam. The pastry blossoms around the melted cheese during baking, and you end up with no-mess, bite-size snacks.

The brie kisses, bacon-date rolls and baby reubens taste great at room temperature. The pull-apart taco bread tastes best when served warm. If you plan to take the bread to a potluck party, bake it the day of the event but don't remove it from the pan. Reheat it at the party, in the original pan, at 350 degrees for

10 minutes.

If you're hosting the party, serve all or most of the hors d'oeuvres warm. Assemble them in advance, then bake and serve them at intervals during the party. That way, guests can enjoy hot, homemade hors d'oeuvres all evening.

When figuring out how many hors d'oeuvres to make, keep in mind the caterers' rule of thumb of five snacks per person per hour. If you're having the party at mealtime, the number may be higher. Round out the array with a spread or two.

Our recipes make a lot of snacks for not much effort. Two cans of biscuits make 20 baby reubens and two disks of pie dough make 32 bacon-date rolls. Two sheets of puff pastry make 32 brie kisses, and the taco bread can serve a crowd.

Oh, and they taste a heck of a lot better than processed cheese on crackers.

BACON-DATE ROLLS

1 box refrigerated pie-dough disks (2 disks)

12 ounces pitted dates, chopped (about 1 and one-half cups loosely packed)

12 strips bacon, cooked until crisp (or use already-cooked bacon, crisped in a microwave)

Bring dough disks to room temperature as instructed on package. Unfold and remove plastic wrapping. Sprinkle each dough disk with ¼ cup chopped dates. Tear bacon into small pieces and scatter over dates. With damp hands, press dates and bacon gently into dough.

Moisten a pizza wheel or a paring knife to keep the dates from sticking. Cut each pastry circle into fourths. Cut each fourth in half, then cut each resulting wedge in half again, ending up with 16 wedges

from each pastry disk.

Beginning at wide end, roll up a wedge cigar-style, ending at the point. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Repeat with remaining wedges. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes, until light golden. Remove from sheets to cool. Makes 32 hors d'oeuvres.

BABY REUBENS

½ of a 12-ounce can corned beef
¾ cup shredded Swiss cheese
¾ cup well-drained sauerkraut, packed

¼ cup mayonnaise
2 cans (10 biscuits each) refrigerated biscuit dough
1 egg white, beaten
In a bowl, mash corned beef



PAUL TOPPE/ARON BEACON JOURNAL

CHRISTMAS PARTY HORS D'OEUVRES made from commercial biscuit dough.

with a fork until fairly smooth. Stir in cheese, sauerkraut and mayonnaise, mixing well.

Separate biscuit dough. Stretch and pat a piece of dough into a 4-inch circle. Place 1 tablespoon corned-beef mixture on one side of the circle. Brush the edges of the circle with egg white. Fold dough circle over filling, pressing edges to

desired.

Makes 24 cookies
From "Cake Mix Magic" (Robert Rose, \$18.95 paperback)

LEMON POPPY SEED COOKIES

2 cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
1½ teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest
1 teaspoon ground coriander
2 tablespoons poppy seeds
1½ sticks salted butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 large egg yolks
1 large whole egg
1½ teaspoons lemon extract

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking soda, lemon zest, coriander and poppy seeds. Mix well with a wire whisk and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar with electric mixer at medium speed until mixture forms a grainy paste. Scrape down sides of bowl, then add yolks, egg and lemon extract. Beat at medium speed until light and fluffy.

Add the flour mixture and mix at low speed just until combined. Do not overmix. (Dough may be frozen at this point.) Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets, 2 inches apart. Bake 21 to 23 minutes until cookies are slightly brown along edges. Immediately transfer cookies with a spatula to a cool, flat surface.

Makes 24 cookies
From "Mrs. Fields' Best Cookie Book Ever" (Time-Life Books, \$9.95 paperback)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease baking sheets. Roll dough onto a lightly floured surface to ¼-inch thickness. Cut with 4-inch gingerbread person cookie cutters. Place on prepared cookie sheets. Press raisins into dough for eyes and buttons, if desired. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until edges start to brown. Cool 5 minutes or until firm on baking sheet; then remove to racks and cool completely. (Cookies may be frozen at this point.)

Decorate cookies with frosting if

Frozen

FROM PAGE 1

Don't let cookie dough sit too long at room temperature before baking. Keep waiting cookies in the refrigerator.

Also, make sure pans are cool before placing uncooked cookies on them.

■ If cookies are too dark or crisp, the cookie sheets may be too dark or too thin.

Storage

■ Store crisp cookies in a container with a loose-fitting lid and soft cookies in a container with a tight lid to maintain their textures.

CHOCOLATE-PEANUT BUTTER COINS

½ cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup light brown sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup cocoa powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
Pinch of salt
½ cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup unsalted cocktail peanuts, finely chopped

Using a mixer and mixing bowl, beat the butter until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add the sugar and mix together until smooth.

In a small bowl, stir the egg with the vanilla and add to the butter mixture, blending well.

Sift together the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add to the butter mixture in three stages, blending well after each addition. Add the peanut butter and blend well.

Divide the dough into thirds. Place each piece on a large rectangle of wax paper and roll each cylinder about 7 inches long and 1 inch thick.

Place chopped peanuts in a shallow pan. Roll each cookie dough log in peanuts to coat the outside of the log. Wrap the logs in wax paper, wrap again in plastic wrap or place in a resealable bag.

Chill at least 2 hours. (The dough can be frozen at this point. Defrost overnight in the refrigerator before using.)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Cut each cylinder into ¼-inch-thick slices. Place on the cookie sheet, with 2 inches between cookies.

Bake for 10 minutes or until firm. Remove the cookie sheets from the oven and transfer the cookies to cooling racks.

Makes 4 dozen.
From "Cookies for Dummies" (Hungry Minds, \$19.99 paperback)

EGGNOG CUTOUT COOKIES

2 cups sugar
1 cup butter, softened
2 eggs
1/3 cup egg nog
1 teaspoon vanilla
4½ cups all-purpose or unbleached flour
1 teaspoon nutmeg
2 teaspoons baking powder
Egg yolk paint:
2 egg yolks
½ teaspoon water
Liquid food coloring, assorted colors

In a large bowl, combine sugar, butter and eggs; beat until light and fluffy. Stir in egg nog and vanilla.

Lightly spoon flour into measuring cup; level off. In a medium bowl, combine flour, nutmeg and baking powder.

Add flour mixture to butter mixture; blend well. Cover dough with plastic wrap; refrigerate 30 minutes for easier handling. (Dough may be frozen at this point.)

When ready to bake cookies, combine egg yolks and water in a small bowl; blend well. Divide mixture into several small cups; tint with food color. If paint thickens, add a few drops of water.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. On a floured surface, roll half of dough at a time to ½-inch thickness. Cut with assorted 2½- to 3-inch cutters, re-rolling dough as necessary. Place cookies 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Using a

small paint brush, paint designs on cookies with egg yolk paint.

Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 11 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Remove from cookie sheets and cool. (Baked cookies may be frozen.)

Makes 72 cookies
From "Pillsbury's Holiday Cookies & Candies" (\$3.99 paperback)

GINGERBREAD PEOPLE

1 (18.25-ounce) package spice cake mix

¾ cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons ground ginger
2 eggs
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup molasses
Raisins for eyes, optional
Vanilla icing, optional
In a large bowl, combine cake mix, flour and ginger. Add eggs, oil and molasses. Mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon to form a smooth dough. (Dough will be soft). Chill 2 to 3 hours until firm enough to roll out. (Dough may be frozen at this point.)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease baking sheets.

Roll dough onto a lightly floured surface to ¼-inch thickness. Cut with 4-inch gingerbread person cookie cutters. Place on prepared cookie sheets. Press raisins into dough for eyes and buttons, if desired. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until edges start to brown. Cool 5 minutes or until firm on baking sheet; then remove to racks and cool completely. (Cookies may be frozen at this point.)

Decorate cookies with frosting if

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seal. Crimp edges with a fork. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Continue with remaining dough and filling. Just before baking, crimp edges with a fork to strengthen the seal. Bake at 400 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes, until golden brown. Makes 20 large hors d'oeuvres

PULL-APART TACO BREAD
1½ loaves frozen bread dough
8 tablespoons melted butter
1 envelope taco seasoning mix
2/3 cup Parmesan cheese
2 cans (4 oz. each) chopped green chilies, drained well
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
Thaw bread at room temperature on cookie sheets for 2 hours, or in a large covered bowl overnight in the refrigerator.

Place melted butter in a shallow bowl. In another shallow bowl, stir together taco seasoning mix and Parmesan cheese. Pull off chunks of dough the size of walnuts and roll between your palms into smooth balls. Roll in butter, then in Parmesan mixture. Place an even layer in the bottom of a well-greased angel-food cake pan (use solid shortening to grease the pan). Dot with one-third of the chilies and some of the Cheddar cheese.

Continue coating balls of dough and piling loosely in pan, interspersed with remaining chilies and

Cheddar cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, until golden brown. Makes 20 large hors d'oeuvres

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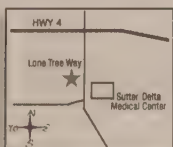
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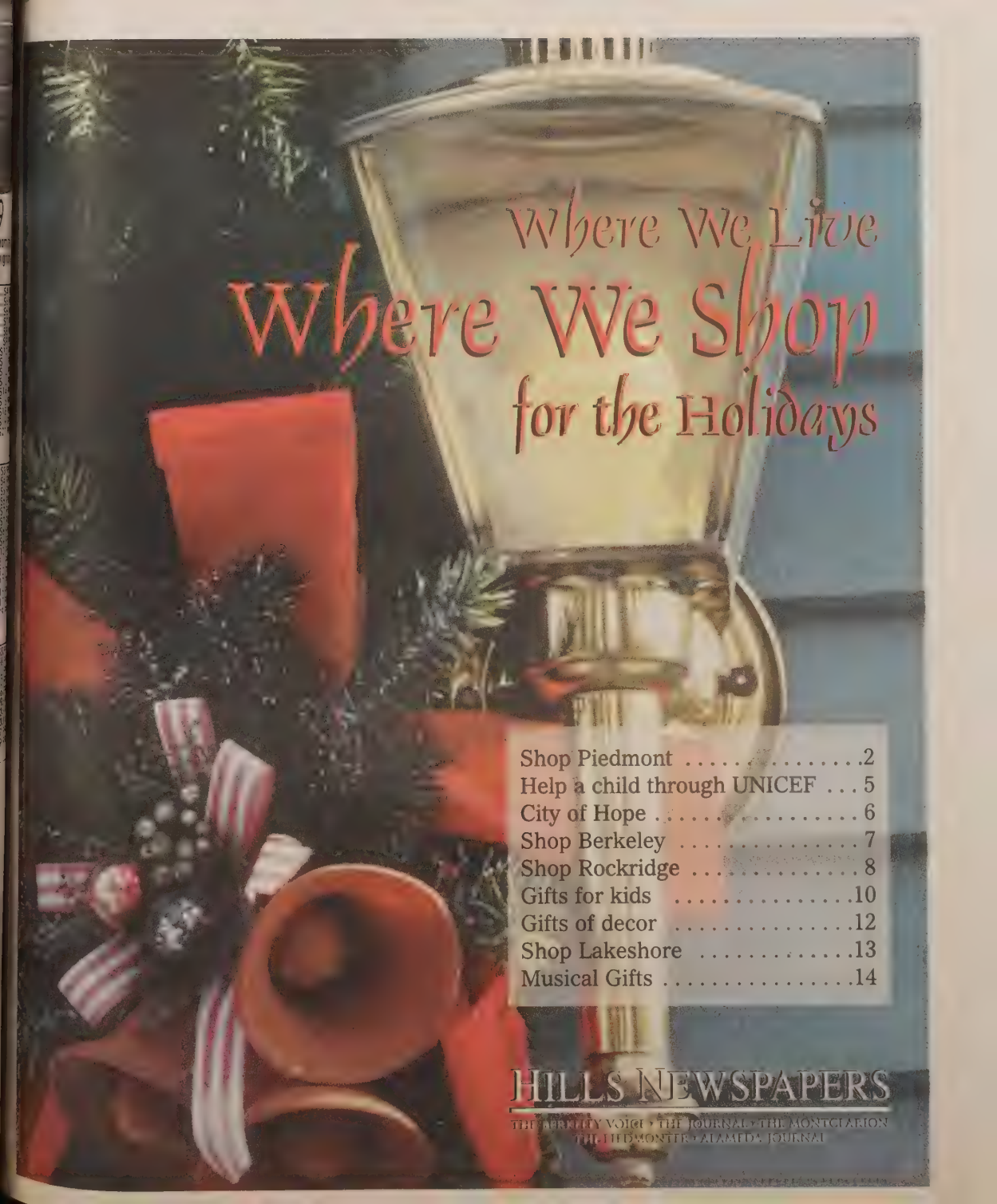
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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

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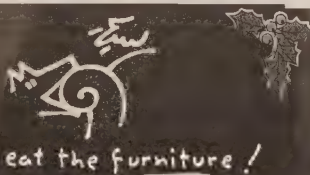
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A Bernina Holiday Announcement.

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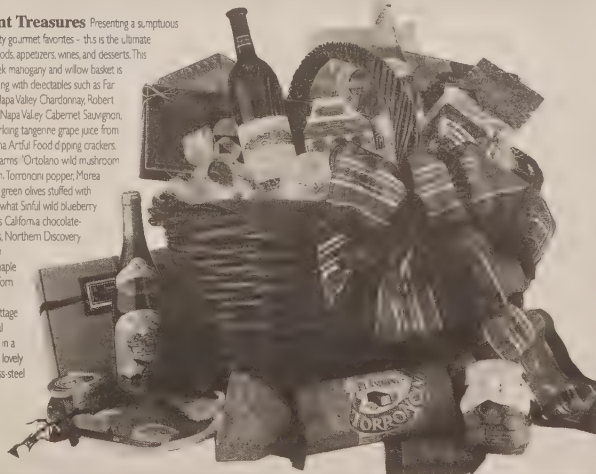
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Holiday Gift Packages

Christmas and New Year's feasts are celebrations of warmth and bounty. Piedmont Grocery is the place to find the finest ingredients for your holiday meal. We would love to hand select a turkey, goose, duckling, or a standing rib roast for you, and offer suggestions for accompanying dishes. This year we are featuring a lovely gift dinner, prepared to order and packaged in a handsome wicker basket ready for delivery.

Decadent Treasures

Presenting a sumptuous sampling of tasty gourmet favorites - this is the ultimate collection of foods, appetizers, wines, and desserts. This beautiful Patzcek manogany and willow basket is filled to overflowing with delectables such as Far Niente 1998 Napa Valley Chardonnay, Robert Mondavi 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Giacobazzi sparkling tangier grape juice from Italy, Bels Cucina Artful Food dipping crackers, Willow Oaks Farms "Ortolano" wild mushroom passato, Hamlyn-Torroni popper, Morra naturally cured green olives stuffed with almonds, Somewhat Sinful wild blueberry nuggets, De Bas California chocolate-dipped oranges, Northern Discovery smoked salmon fillet, Cleary's maple sugar cookies, Tom Ranch oolong, moose nuts, Cottage Deights original Victorian mints in a travel tin, and a lovely Krieger stainless steel spreader.



To Place Your Order

How To Reach Us.

Call (800) 675-1212, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 9 p.m. to 7 p.m. Send a fax to (510) 653-0308. Send e-mail to PiedmontG@aol.com.

Or come into Piedmont Grocery and make your selection in person.

Please Include The Following Information:

1. Your name, address, and telephone number;
2. The quantity, description, and price of each item.

3. The name and address of each recipient. Include a phone number with post office box.

4. The message you wish to include in each order.

5. The approximate date on which you would like each item received.

6. Your credit card type (Visa, MasterCard, ~~AMEX~~ Express or Piedmont), number, and exp. date.

*When demand outlasts supply, we reserve the right to substitute items of equal or greater value in gift packages.



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Kids — be a spy or have an adventure this season

Wild Planet Toys

Hidden behind a pair of sleek sunglasses, hear sounds up to 30 feet away with a power never before possible thanks to the latest, cutting-edge spy headgear. Spy Listener sunglasses have a micro listening device that picks up the faintest sounds up to 30 feet away. The sunglasses can be worn with or without the listening device, which easily clips on and off the side of the frame. Sunglass lenses are UV-protected and impact resistant.

Other spy gear includes the Spy Door Alarm, a remote control room guard with an alarm. It clips easily to any round doorknob.

If unauthorized personnel try to open the door without the remote control, the voice alarm sounds, "Intruder alert!" and a red warning light flashes. (Parents can easily remove Spy Door Alarm from the doorknob, so it is safe for all rooms.)

Spy Vision Scope is an adjustable spy scope magnifies far-away objects, while a red night-vision beam illuminates the dark. Both tools easily retract out of the way when the mission is complete.

XP-4 SPY PEN is no ordinary pen, it's a top-secret spy tool kit. Snap on one of four tools and suddenly XP-4 Spy Pen is a spy scope, a motion alarm, a flashlight or a writing light.

These and other Wild Planet products are available at Toys 'R Us, Target, Wal-Mart, Kmart, KB, Zany Brains, FAO Schwarz, Learning Express, Walmart.com, toysrus.com and specialty toy stores everywhere. For more information about Wild Planet Toys, check out www.wildplanet.com.

Knowledge Adventure

Children's software leader Knowledge Adventure won three Fall 2001 Parents' Choice Awards from Parents' Choice, the nation's oldest consumer guide to quality children's media. In the software category, Knowledge Adventure's Jurassic Park III: Danger Zone, an action/adventure game based on the blockbuster film; "JumpStart Languages," an early learning program that introduces kids to Span-

ish, French, Japanese and English; and "Math Blaster: Cross Terrian Challenge," a critical-thinking adventure that extends the meaning of math into the 21st century, were given Parents' Choice Silver Honors.

Knowledge Adventure develops

PC and console-based software. The company's recently renovated headquarters and Blaster Learning Centers call Knowledge Adventure at 800-545-7677 www.education.com

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<p>FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz.</p> <p>All Varieties</p> <p>Limit 1 Case Per Family</p> <p>4/\$1</p> <p>Effective 12/12-12/18</p>	<p>KAL KAN CHOICE CUTS/PEDIGREE CANNED DOG FOOD 22 Oz. All Varieties</p> <p>Limit 1 Case Per Family</p> <p>69¢</p> <p>Effective 12/12-12/18</p>	<p>TIDY CAT SCOOP SCOOPABLE CAT LITTER 20 lb. Jug</p> <p>*Multiple Cat Formula *Regular Limit 2 Jugs Per Family</p> <p>\$4.99</p> <p>Effective 12/12-12/18</p>	<p>PETTY BOY WILD BIRD SEED 20 lb. Bag</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family</p> <p>\$3.49</p> <p>Effective 12/12-12/18</p>

<p>KAL KAN WHISKAS DRY CAT FOOD w/ Savory Nuggets 17.6 lb. Limit 2 Bags</p> <p>\$7.99</p>	<p>LITTER SELECT FLAT CRYSTALS CAT LITTER 7.6 Liter</p> <p>\$7.99</p>	<p>NUTRO GOURMET CLASSICS & MAX KITTEN CANNED CAT FOOD 3 Oz. All Varieties</p> <p>3/\$1</p>	<p>TRIUMPH DOG BISCUITS 4 lb. Box *Pick *Assorted *Puppy *Mini Adult *Senior *Senior Adult *Senior Adult & Puppy</p> <p>\$3.49</p>
<p>EVERCLEAN PREMIUM CAT LITTER 22 lb. Box *ES Unscented *LT ES Scented *AB</p> <p>\$8.99</p>	<p>SCIENCE DIET FELINE MAINTENANCE DRY CAT FOOD 4 lb. Box *Senior *Adult *Senior Adult *Senior Adult & Puppy</p> <p>\$5.49</p>	<p>GRAVY TRAIN DRY DOG FOOD 35 lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags</p> <p>\$8.99</p>	<p>SCIENCE DIET CANNED CAT FOOD 3.5 Oz. *Regular *Senior *Litter Limit 3 Cases Per Family</p> <p>49¢</p>

<p>BREEDER'S CHOICE AVO-DIET DRY DOG FOOD 40 lb. Bag *Avo-Lamb & Rice, 40 lbs *Avo-Lite, 35 lbs</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags</p> <p>\$21.99</p>	<p>NATURE'S RECIPE CANNED DOG FOOD 13 Oz. All Varieties Except *Venison & Rice - \$15.99 (Kibbles & Rice - \$11.99)</p> <p>65¢</p>	<p>PESTELL CLUMPING CAT LITTER 40 lb. Bag</p> <p>\$6.99</p>	<p>NUTRA NUGGETS LAMB MEAL & RICE DRY DOG FOOD 40 lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags</p> <p>\$14.99</p>
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200 Glass Oak with 5-F Hood	\$11.99	30 Glass Oak with 5-F Hood	\$139.99

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4	30 Gal.	\$24.99
5	40 Gal.	\$29.99

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Limit 10 Cans With Coupon
Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 12/12-12/18

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Send a card, help a child thru UNICEF

New UNICEF location in Berkeley

BERKELEY — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) whose greeting cards are known the world over, has launched several new lines of cards and gifts to mark this year's holiday season. Sales of these products continue a 50-year tradition of support for UNICEF programs, which improve the lives of children worldwide.

Exciting additions to this year's collection include a range of products from around the world — calendars, ornaments, diaries and cards — that directly support community projects.

Following a rejuvenated look in 2000, UNICEF is continuing its new artistic direction by introducing cards and gifts designed by contemporary international designers. Highlights from the collection include:

- Greeting cards — from traditional favorites to playful new designs combining classic and modern touches.

- Calendars and diaries — practical and attractive gifts celebrating the many facets of children's identities and children at play, joyously captured by world-renowned photographers.

- Holiday gift items from around the world — tree ornaments from Bangladesh, hand-decorated candles from South Africa, or hand-made gift wrap and bags from Nepal.

- Teddy bears — Mawuena and Mike, the first members of the official UNICEF Family of International Teddy Bears.

Choosing a UNICEF card or product means more than simply buying a gift. All purchases support the work of UNICEF and its efforts on behalf of children around the world.

This year's Nepalese paper products, Madagascan cards, South African candles all come from community projects that help women and children become healthy, strong and self-sufficient.

UNICEF has been raising funds from the sale of greeting cards since 1949. To date, over four billion cards have been sold, bringing a cumulative net income to UNICEF of close to \$US1 billion.

Funds raised are used in more than 160 countries and territories worldwide to provide children with good health care, including immunization and HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as improved nutrition, basic education, clean water and protection from discrimination, violence and abuse.

The cards and products also play an important role in creating awareness about children's issues

The United Nations UNICEF Center is in the University Avenue Andronico's parking lot at 1403 Addison Street in Berkeley.

and they provide people everywhere with an opportunity to support UNICEF's work.

The following examples illustrate how purchases of UNICEF cards and products help create a better world for children: An order for one pack of cards (or \$12) buys 240 water purification tablets to purify 53 gallons of water. An order for two UNICEF Teddy Bears (or \$30) provides enough vitamin A capsules to protect nearly 750 children against blindness for one year. An order for seasonal gift wrap and 10 self-ad-

hesive gift tags (or \$17) can help UNICEF provide the equipment, vaccine and trained health-worker needed to vaccinate one child against the six major childhood diseases that kill millions of children. An order for the Bamana photo album (or \$10) buys four kids a set of school supplies including a slate, chalk, towel and school bag.

"By purchasing UNICEF cards and gifts this holiday season, Americans can help UNICEF give many more children a much better start in life," said Charles J. Lyons, pres-



A HEAVILY TEXTURED version of Nepalese paper has been used to create this set of elegant gift bags. Each comes with a contrasting sheet of gift wrap and a textured gift tag.

ident of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. "All this takes is basic health care, nutritious food, a safe and hygienic place to live and a nurturing environment". Products can also be purchased at Pier One Imports, Staples and IKEA. If you already have your cards for this year, you can buy next years in advance — and the money you spend will be working all year long.

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF works for the survival, protection, and development of children worldwide through education, advocacy, and fundraising. It is the oldest of 37 national committees around the world that support UNICEF's mission. Additional information can be obtained by accessing its home page at www.unicefusa.org or by calling 800-FOR-KIDS.

Temescal Business District enjoying a renaissance

WWW.OAKLANDNET.COM

The renaissance of the Temescal Business District as the commercial heart of this historic North Oakland neighborhood offers significant business opportunities.

With ready access to Highway 24, Temescal businesses can target both regional and local shoppers. The District has many pedestrian-friendly characteristics, including large street trees, traditional glass storefronts, and wide sidewalks. New investments oc-

curing in the Temescal are reclaiming the charm and character of the area.

Four new commercial projects now underway — Temescal Plaza, Temescal Triangle, 4920 Telegraph and Temescal Square — provide over 25,000 square feet of retail space in well-designed buildings which contribute to the character of the area. New public improvements planned for the area will further enhance the pedestrian environment.

The District serves as the "town

center" for the Temescal Neighborhood, providing a post office, branch public library, drug store, cleaners, produce market, grocery, bank, numerous restaurants, a district fire station and other essential services. With the increasing number of businesses, the opportunities to draw neighborhood residents as well as regional customers are expanding.

Many successful businesses draw customers from the entire East Bay, including Genova's Deli-

catesen and the Asmara Restaurant. New businesses to the area include Walgreens, a deli/bistro, a new Mediterranean cafe and a fitness center. The popular Sunday Temescal Square Farmers' Market draws many customers and operates from spring through fall at 49th Street, off Telegraph Avenue.

For more information call: Jennifer Cooper, City of Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency, 510-238-6250. Website: www.oaklandnet.com.

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Gifts, clicks and even sodas benefit City of Hope Cancer Center

CITY OF HOPE

LOS ANGELES — Giving gifts to help others is sure to top wish lists this holiday season.

From the first-ever B.B. King Holiday CD to greeting cards, online shopping and other gift ideas, individuals can help City of Hope Cancer Center spread its message of HOPE and healing to those suffering from life-threatening diseases such as cancer, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.

Gift ideas

Add a classic element to the holiday tree with a festive, hand-painted blown glass ornament. A colorful, three-inch representation of Santa Claus's smiling face is \$5.99 at nearly 380 participating Longs Drug Stores in California,

Nevada, Colorado, Washington and Oregon. Bargain shoppers can look for the Dec. 14 Longs circular featuring the ornament for \$4.99.

All proceeds from the sale of this item will be donated to City of Hope. This ornament will also be sold at participating Northern California Safeway and Albertsons stores.

Online consumers can save lives and skip the mall madness this season when they log on to one of the City of Hope member charity malls. Merchants will donate 2 to 20 percent of each online purchase. For a list of malls, visit www.cityofhope.org.

Give the gift of hope today and every day by logging on to www.clickforhope.org. With each click, corporate sponsors will do-

nate half a cent to City of Hope. When consumers bookmark this site, they can click today, cure cancer tomorrow.

The work conducted at City of Hope is shared with medical centers worldwide, touching the lives of millions of people everywhere. For more information about how you can support City of Hope's life-saving research and treatment programs, please call 800-260-HOPE, or visit the Web site at www.cityofhope.org.

Music and entertainment

The King of the Blues, B.B. King, has released a new MCA holiday album, *A Christmas Celebration of Hope*, the beloved entertainer's first-ever Christmas album and first album benefiting a charity. In its 13

tracks, B.B. puts a classic blues spin on a host of contemporary holiday favorites, including "Please Come Home For Christmas," "Auld Lang Syne" and many others. The CD is available at retailers nationwide at the suggested retail price of \$18.95.

In retail outlets throughout the country, consumers may purchase Shasta St. Nick's holiday beverage flavors of Cranberry, Ginger Ale, Cola, and Diet Cola, and a portion of the proceeds from the sale of these beverages will be donated to City of Hope. The flavors are packaged in two- and three-liter bottles.

Hansen's is working beyond National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October to increase awareness of this disease. The Save Tabs,

Save Lives campaign — an effort to raise \$50,000 for breast cancer research — features specially signed red tabs and store-bought Hansen's products produced through December 2001.

Consumers can collect each in the red tabs to Hansen's Breast Cancer Fund, 1010 Palmdale Blvd., Corona, CA 92682. For more information, call 800-260-HOPE. Hansen's will donate 10 cents of each purchase to the fund.

From now through January 2002, Diners Club will offer members Double Club Rewards and the chance to help save lives. Card members can donate up to \$100 to City of Hope using their Diners Club Card by calling a special number (888-931-HOPE) or receive this bonus reward.

Invest for a child

WELLS FARGO

Every gift giver wants to give a child a gift that will outlast the latest fad, and maybe even inspire the child to learn, even months and years later.

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for college.

Gift givers can purchase fractional or whole shares of stock for children in any dollar amount, for just \$4 per transaction. All accounts will be credited \$25 if the account is opened and funded before Dec. 31. Gift givers will have the opportunity to print out and personalize a gift certificate to present to the child.

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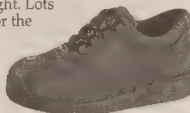
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10 Ways to Celebrate the Season

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Free holiday performances in Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm

Nov. 29, Oddly Enuf Quartet

Dec. 6, Ephesian Youth Choir

Dec. 13, Cal Jazz Choir

Dec. 20, The Jazzschool Singers

Saturdays, 3:30-5:30pm

Dec. 1, Kairoo Youth Choir

Dec. 8, Contra Costa Chorale

Dec. 15, La Peña Comm. Chorus

Dec. 22, Girl Talk (Jazz)



For find out more about the events, go to www.downtownberkeley.org

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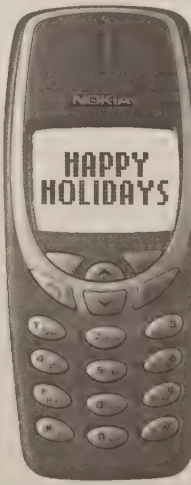
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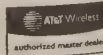
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ROCKRIDGE — The Rockridge Merchant Association works closely with the organization BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency) helping poor, homeless, and disabled people achieve health and self-sufficiency, and to fight the causes of poverty and homelessness.

BOSS was founded in 1971 and is committed to help people with one or more barriers to self-sufficiency. Many, with the help of the Rockridge Merchants, are hired to clean along College Avenue keeping the Rockridge community beautiful and earning wages to help restore self esteem while working toward self-sufficiency.

To learn more about this program contact Jan Christensen-Heller of Christensen-Heller Gallery, 5831 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-9952.

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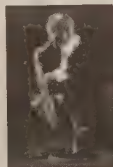
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Kids will jump for joy at these gifts

COMPILED BY TIMES STAFF

Excalibur Electronics

Famous for its computerized chess, Excalibur Electronics has developed a series of hand-held games for this holiday season. Perfect for kids and adults, these handy games go where you go. Touch Casino, \$29.95, offers three card games: solitaire (Vegas or standard rules), draw poker and deuces wild. It's small (about 3" x 4" x 1/2") with advanced features such as card stack review, playing timer, take back and much more. Touch Casino, with its lightweight stylus, has the look and feel of a palm-sized personal organizer. LCD Chess, \$29.95, now fits right in the palm of your hand. No larger than an eyeglass case, is packed with the latest computer technology. Two people can play against each other or one person can take on the internal computer or use auto-play to watch the computer play against it-

self. LCD Backgammon, \$29.95, comes with two levels of play. The entire game is played on a large, easy-to-see LCD display. There are NO loose pieces to misplace. It has a doubling cube feature, electronic dice rolling and it can save the game in its memory. It has a player rating system.

Touch Chess, \$49.95, uses a stylus wand to move the chess-piece images on the touch screen. The game allows two people to play against each other or one person to challenge the internal computer. You can even use the auto-play feature to watch the computer play against itself. Electronic Double-6 Dominoes, \$29.95, replaces the click-n-clack of tiles with virtual tiles that appear on the large, easy-to-see colorful LCD screen. The game has two different game modes, convenient memory save and shut-off functions, three different levels in both Draw and Block dominoes, and even a take-back

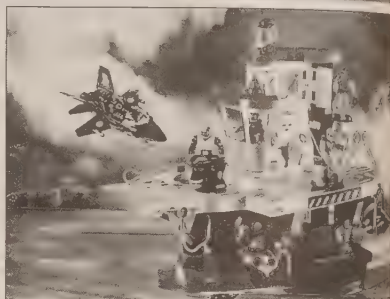
feature. Adding to the fun, Electronic Double-6 Dominoes allows two people to play against each other or one person against the internal computer.

Contact Excalibur at 800-592-4377 or visit the company's Web site, www.excaliburelectronics.com.

Fisher-Price Interactive

Two new games based on the best-selling Rescue Heroes toy line, which is modeled after everyday real-life heroes, provide kids ages 4 to 7 cool action adventures and heroic, inspirational themes that parents can feel good about. Designed especially for young kids, Rescue Heroes Molten Menace (PlayStation) and Rescue Heroes Meteor Madness (CD-ROM) promote positive values such as problem-solving, teamwork and safety, demonstrating that it is cool to be one of the good guys.

In addition, a new CD-ROM based on the best-selling Power Wheels battery-powered ride-on vehicle, Power Wheels Off-Road Adventure, immerses kids ages 4 to 7 in an all-terrain driving adventure as they build wild and wacky courses that come to life. Featur-



SATISFY A CHILD'S DREAMS

with the Rescue Heroes Aquatic Rescue Command Center, above or create their own Cinderella experience with a large My Interactive Princess Cinderella, right.

ing high-octane adventures, this game provides a positive, good for you play experience that encourages imagination, creativity and problem-solving.

In addition, there's the Rescue Heroes Aquatic Rescue Command Center, with audio and visual transmission in a center with



rescue vehicles, boat dock, life pad and jet runway.

The Power Wheels vehicle, a Volkswagen New Beetle, features a working door, add-on babies and can customize their car and a 6-volt rechargeable battery so kids ranging up to 2.5 miles per hour in forward or reverse.

Kidstation

Looking for this year's perfect kids for the holidays? Kidstation is the perfect complement to gifts: new computers and games, solving the problem of where to put them once they are taken out of the box. With children spending more and more time using computers, the proper set up is critical. At that in mind, Kidstation (www.kidstation.com), devised the perfect solution: colorful ergonomic computer desks and chairs especially designed for young children.

The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association recently recognized Kidstation, an ergonomically designed computer desk for children, as one of the year's new products. It's made for children ages 3 to 8.

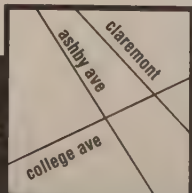
The Kidstation computer desk offer the following ergonomic features: the monitor shelf allows the monitor to correspond to the user's eye-level; the desktop is adjustable so that the arms rest at a 90-degree angle when a child is using the keyboard; the backrest of the chair is adjustable so that the back is fully supported; and the height of the chair also adjusts to allow the feet to



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Kids

FROM PAGE 10

firmly planted on the floor or the footrest that is provided by the desk.

Playmates Toys

Playmates Toys, the innovator in technologically-advanced products, is proud to present My Interactive Princess Cinderella, the first doll in the My Princess line of interactive large dolls that brings magic and life to the beloved and enchanting Disney Princesses.

My Interactive Princess Cinderella is the first electronic, talking Disney Cinderella doll, and the first Disney Princess to debut this fall in the My Princess line. Now every little girl can have her very own Cinderella experience as Cinderella prompts the girl to become part of her fairy tale world.

Through four chapters of play, the girl can interact with Cinderella through every step of the fairy tale, all the way to the happily-ever-after ending. With the child's help, Cinderella can be magically transformed as she enters the world of the Prince and the Ball.

My Interactive Princess Cinderella comes with two sets of clothing, her everyday dress and a ball gown that transforms Cinderella into the beau-

tiful princess she is destined to be. Through resistor technology, My Interactive Princess Cinderella is able to recognize which outfit she is wearing throughout the story. Cinderella also comes with a matching child-sized tiara so she and the girl can be princesses together.

By squeezing Cinderella's left hand, the child has the ability to hear the entire tale or just her favorite parts again and again.

My Interactive Princess Cinderella is now available for a retail price of \$49.99.

Consumers may visit the company's Web site at www.playmatestoy.com.

Dan Oakley Toys

Oilblock, the brightly-colored architectural building blocks, are an artful and modern interpretation of a classic toy concept. Oilblock is distinguished by its bright pastel colors and organic irregularly shaped pieces that fit together with interlocking connections on one end and a magnet connection on the other.

This architecturally-inspired toy, geared towards ages 4 years and older, provides a fresh, fun alternative in educational toys. It's packaged in a clear tube with 20 pieces cast in a non-toxic plastic.

The toy can be found at San Francisco's SFMOMA, the Oakland

Museum and the San Jose Museum of Art and Tech Museum of Innovation or www.oilblock.com.

Irwin Toys

FamilyFun magazine named Irwin Toy's Bead Scene costume jewelry-making machine a winner of its Toy of the Year (TOY) Award in the arts and crafts category. They called the automatic Bead Scene "way cool."

By pushing a button, then sitting back, users will be surprised by the random assortment of cat's eye, pearl and crystal beads the machine strung for them. At the same time, the machine plays music and issues fortunes. It's sure to be a big hit with girls aged 8 to 12 this holiday season as the craze for 1960s funky, fun fashion continues.

Wheels on the Bus, Nutty Elephant, Spin the Beetle and Penguin Pat's Fishy Business teach preschoolers important skills and allow them to bond with adults while having fun. Children 5 and older will love turning and twisting parts of the silly robot face back into place playing Heads up.



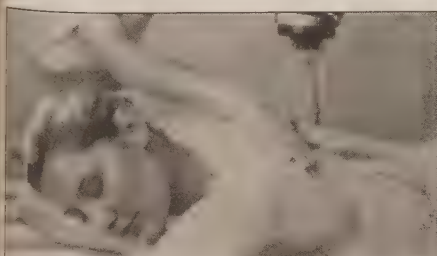
HABRO

HASBRO HAS HUNDREDS of toys and games for all ages. The Monsters, Inc. line includes Boo, left, and Glowing Bedtime Sully, right, each retailing for \$29.99.

Monopoly: The Disney Edition combines two beloved family favorites. It includes all the fun of the classic Monopoly game—but features treasured Disney characters and films (age 8 and older). And for those approaching the teen years, M.A.G.S. — Music Activated Gaming System — is the ultimate music accessory. This portable handheld game uses the player's favorite

music, creating a different game every time.

The POX game provides a new level of depth, strategy and social interaction based on the creation and collection of alien characters. Through unique game play using RF technology, instantaneous battle occurs between units within approximately 30 feet, allowing kids to play anywhere and anytime.



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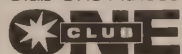


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COMPILED BY T. MES STAFF

Swarovski

The countdown to sleigh bells ringing, candles blazing and the holiday season beginning has officially started. Chestnuts will soon be roasting on an open fire, so it's time to start contemplating the perfect gift for family, friends and co-workers. Whether celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, Swarovski offers a range of dazzling crystal items to invoke the universal holiday spirit and commemorate joyous occasions in style.

Sparking Treats for the Style Connoisseur: Swarovski's 2001 Annual Edition Ornament (\$55), the eleventh annual edition in the holiday collectible series, is a faceted snowflake design. This unique item can be used traditionally on a Christmas tree or unconventionally hung in multiple places from a window blind.

The holiday season calls for festi-

ve attire and Swarovski's new Times Squared Bracelet (\$75), with a fun transparent rubber wristband and corresponding crystallized square. The Times Squared Bracelet is available in translucent lilac, orange, turquoise, purple, blue and charcoal. If looking for something with a bit more whimsy, try Swarovski's new Flex! Bracelets (8mm, \$65; 12mm, \$75; 18mm, \$95) in silver, bronze and gold. Reminiscent of flexible watchstraps studded with clear crystals, the bracelets come in a variety of widths, lending themselves to stacking.

Brooches provide a quick fix for a fashion finale and Swarovski offers a variety to choose from this holiday season. The new Aila brooch (\$95) is a red leather blossom with crystal pave. Attaching one to a barrette and wearing it as a hair ornament is a creative alter-

COLLECTIBLE Ralph Lauren Bears offer a classic gift favorite that gives back to a special cause, the Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer, right. Decorate home or tree with a Swarovski's 2001 Annual Edition Ornament, left.



SWAROVSKI



native to give an ensemble a vibrant boost. Swarovski's Annual Edition Snowflake Brooch (\$85) is a personal way to incorporate a seasonal component into a winter wardrobe.

For men, Swarovski introduces crystal cuff links (\$55). Small crystal centers offset the rhodium-plated square crystal buttons in jet-black, to create a polished and sophisti-

cated look on the sleeve of a dress shirt. The ideal gift for a male family member or significant other, these crystal cuff links are exclusively available during the holiday season.

You're sure to be ahead of the times with a watch from Daniel Swarovski Paris' Watch Collection, consisting of the G.M.T. Thin Watch

(\$600) and the Greenwatch (Watch (\$695). Crystal mesh combined with soft leather to a comfortable yet shining look. Available in crystal, garnet, sapphire, smoky quartz, this watch is a perfect accessory for your collection to the New Year.

Entertain in style with bronze tabletop items from Swarovski's collection's Rainbow Collection. Vibrant color accents and distinctive, modern designs, the bottle stoppers (\$104), napkin holders (\$315), napkin rings (\$280) and knife rests (\$280) signify a special occasion. Perfect for a holiday table or dress gift, these festive crystal items are available in topaz, clear, conia blue, sapphire, turquoise and siam.

The quintessential symbol of Christmas, Swarovski's faceted ever crystal Christmas tree (\$125) is a colorful rendition of this age-old holiday tradition with stylized and gold glass balls around the tree and shining star on top. It can be a centerpiece or brighten a festive mantle or holiday window.

For dressier occasions, Swarovski's faux fur collars (\$75) adorned with crystal stone, ton banding, and matching (\$95), featuring large, square crystal buttons. Available in burgundy, black and beige.

Swarovski Jewelry Silver Gift Set and Selection are available at Swarovski retail stores and department stores nationwide. For outlets, call 800-426-3268. Swarovski Paris is available at Fifth Avenue and select locations. Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman. For local outlets, call 648-8209.

Ralph Lauren

Share in the spirit of the season with a classic gift favorite that gives back to a special cause. The Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer. Now in its seventh year, the collectible Ralph Lauren Bears Care now features the "Family Bear" an adorable family of bears that includes mama, papa and baby bear. Each bear is a unique design.

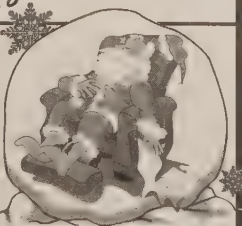
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joy them on the Avenue. Eat at our fine restaurants, shop for your holiday wardrobe at the Gap or our other many fashion shops, update your computer, or buy supplies for your Christmas or New Year's party.

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Make it a musical holiday season with these tapes and CDs

COMPILED BY TIMES STAFF

What better gift than music — whether holiday favorites or tunes that will soothe or stimulate people all year long? Here are a few titles which are available this season:

A Classical Kids Christmas

The Children's Group announces the CD/cassette release of A Classical Kids Christmas, the tenth release in the award-winning Classical Kids series.

Classical carols and classic poetry combine to tell the story of Christmas, just like the pageants of days gone by. Follow the Three Wise Men as they set out for Bethlehem; meet Saint Nicholas (no, not

Santa Claus!); and experience the traditions of Christmas around the world. It's a magical Christmas Eve, the celebration of Christmas Day and rejoicing of animals at the manger.

Everyone will enjoy the story of why the stork delivers babies, how the robin got its red breast, and how tinsel came to decorate our trees.

The CD also features classic poetry of the season. Contact: www.childrensgroup.com

CDs from Walt Disney Records

"The Inside-Out Sleep game" and the updated "The Floppy Sleep game" are two CDs introduced by Walt Disney Records and produced

by Patti Teel. Through music and gently yoga techniques, Teel helps children relax and teaches to count their blessings on their way to sleep.

The CD begins with Nori, a friendly turtle, then leads into stretching and relaxing exercises with soothing lullabies in the background.

Children are then encouraged to count their blessings and use breathing exercises to help them calm themselves into a quiet sleep. The CDs are \$12.95 at stores and online at Amazon.com.

Small Fry Productions

A new video release "Jingle Bell Baby" by Dennis Fedoruk, is a 30-minute home video that includes

images of making cookies, decorating the Christmas tree, making snow angels and singing along with traditional holiday music. The video retails for \$15.95. It is also packaged with "Fry Friends" in a holiday stocking with four multi-cultural characters which kids can use for play. The combination gift is \$19.95.

Contact: 800-521-5311 or visit www.smallfry.com.

"Glide Memorial's The Sounds of Hope"

Reverend Cecil Williams, the Glide Ensemble and the Change Band deliver a jubilant message of spiritual healing with the release of "The Sounds of Hope," the fourth CD featuring the renowned gospel



SMALL FRY PRODUCTIONS

ensemble from San Francisco's endry church.

"The Sounds of Hope" features performances by the 125-member Glide Ensemble choir and band recorded live at two consecutive Glide Memorial.

But "The Sounds of Hope" isn't your father's gospel music. Reverend Williams uses the term "Integrated Gospel" to describe the ensemble's unique sound.

"We work with stuff that makes people open up their hearts, open up their minds, their souls," Reverend Williams said. "When we sing, clap, dance, when we pray — and whatever we do — we try to lift people up."

Proceeds from the CD — which is available in record stores, at Glide's Sunday Celebrations and on Glide's Web site, www.glide.org — will be allocated to Glide's community outreach programs, which touch thousands of people in need everyday.

The Glide Ensemble and Change Band accompany Glide's popular Celebrations on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at 330 15th Street in San Francisco.

Jewish Holidays audiotapes

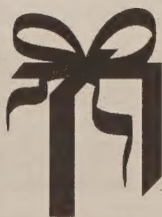
"Mordechai Mouse and Other Tales for the Jewish Holidays" is an interactive storytelling audiobook which encourages kids to make their own stories with Jewish holiday themes.

On the 50-minute tape by Nancy Leithold, children meet a dragon who likes chicken soup, a little girl who learns to make matzah balls, and a mouse named Mordechai who lives in a synagogue. The tape is \$10.

Children can also go online to www.simplystorytelling.com and find the window created for Hanukkah with a "Create a Story" page.

Other story tapes are "The Little Again and Again," "Purple Stars and Other Toe-Tingling Stories," and "Animals on the Loose." They can be ordered through 877-417-8888 or www.simplystorytelling.com.

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Shop Oakland Contest Entry Form

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Prize awarded by random drawing. Entries must be received by Sunday, December 31, 2001.

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Submit completed form at:

Chili-Up at City Center
Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park
Alcatraz Shade Shop, Telegraph
Jack's Bistro at Jack London Square
CA Savings & Loans, 1998 Mountain Blvd.

Decor

FROM PAGE 12

brown color, different in size but with flexible arms and legs. And each bear sports a Polo Ralph Lauren knit scarf.

This precious family of three teddy bears is available for \$16.50 with any \$35 Ralph Lauren Fragrance purchase. A donation will be made to the Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer Research.

Recently Polo Ralph Lauren made headlines when it lent its classic polo player icon to a philanthropic cause—the Pink Pony Campaign. The elegant black cotton T-shirt with a dramatic pink polo player logo is a symbol of commitment to the fight against breast and other cancers.

Fifteen dollars from the sale of this limited edition item goes to The Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Prevention and Care at North General Hospital in Harlem. The Ralph Lauren Center is dedicated to raising cancer awareness and enhancing prevention, screening and treatment in the Harlem community to ensure that more people receive treatment at an earlier, more curable stage.

Lenox Collectibles

With its signature quality and attention to detail, LenoxCollections.com provides the perfect selection of distinctive gifts at the touch of a button. Whether it is a fine china figurine, a crystal sculpture or a personalized ornament, the company redefines holiday shopping with convenience, quality and impeccable style.

Gifts under \$25: For the new baby or little ones in your life, give the gift of collecting. Start a collection of adorable animal ornaments, beginning with this year's Internet Exclusive Christmas products Santa's Little Helper, Holiday Hostess, and Cool Yule. Santa's Little Helper, sculpted in the classic ivory fine china of Lenox, depicts a baby polar bear with a present at its feet and a bright Santa hat. A mouse dressed in festive Victorian garb, Holiday Hostess is a hand-painted resin ornament that also stands as a sculpture. Cool Yule features a cheerful penguin wearing a festive pom-pom hat and bow tie, crafted in ivory fine china. There's also a Lenox Personalized Baby's First Christmas Teddy.

Gifts under \$50: If you're not sure what to give that special someone at holiday time, why not give them a gift box! The Ivory china and gold Tiny Treasures Gift Box actually holds its own present inside—a gold-plated charm in the shape of a miniature gift box. Available for \$29.90 at LenoxCollections.com. A fun-loving snowman is the star of the Winter Wonderland Music Box, crafted of ivory fine china and 24 karat gold. Turn the key inside, and

the music box plays—what else?—"Winter Wonderland." Available for a song at \$39.90.

Over \$50: For the nature lovers in your life, a fanciful friendship is portrayed in A Stroll with Friends, where a colorful and curious flock of birds meets an adorable snow baby. Available for \$95, the piece

features Lenox's trademark attention to detail, from the birds' tiny feathers to the intricate weave of the wicker on the baby carriage, all captured in bonded porcelain. An original, hand-painted Lenox sculpture and 2001 Collector's Edition nominee, A Stroll with Friends was inspired by the artistry of Lynn By-

waters.

Over \$100: Snowflakes are the jewels of winter bright, sparkling and exquisite. The artists of Lenox bring the delicate beauty of the snowflake to a stunning collector bowl—the first Lenox piece set with crystals from Swarovski. Available for \$119, The Jeweled Snowflake

Bowl is decorated with snowflakes—sculpted in bas-relief and carved in a pierced design. Six large sculpted snowflakes, each set with a sparkling Swarovski crystal, encircle the bowl. The foot and rim are edged by hand in precious platinum. Website: www.lenoxcollections.com.



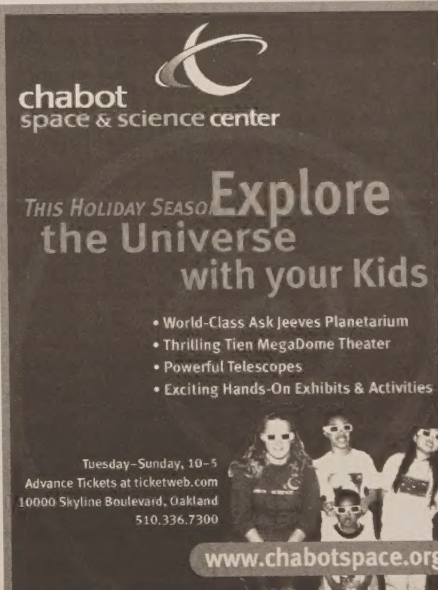
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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.OAKLANDZOO.ORG FOR DETAILS AND GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR THE ANIMAL LOVERS ON YOUR LIST OR CALL **(510) 632-9525**



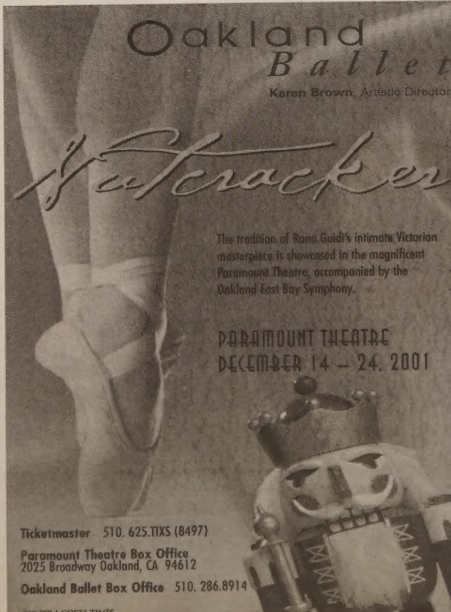
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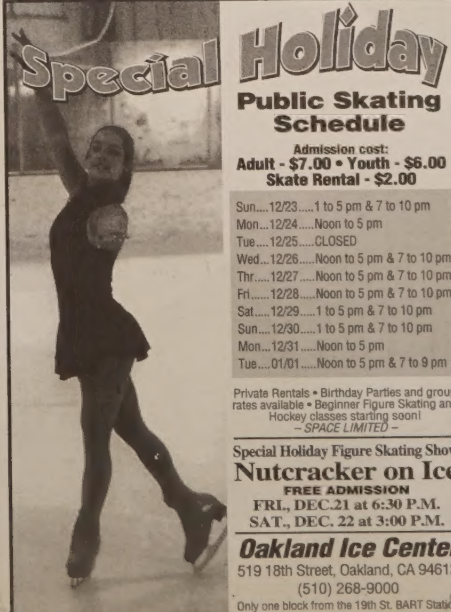
Oakland Ballet
Karen Brown, Artistic Director

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Tue...12/25...CLOSED
Wed...12/26...Noon to 5 pm & 7 to 10 pm
Thur...12/27...Noon to 5 pm & 7 to 10 pm
Fri...12/28...Noon to 5 pm & 7 to 10 pm
Sat...12/29...1 to 5 pm & 7 to 10 pm
Sun...12/30...1 to 5 pm & 7 to 10 pm
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